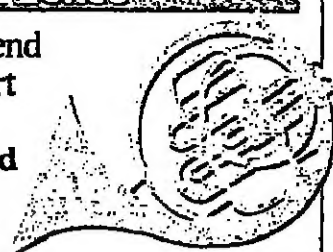


MUSICAL BONUS

Take a friend to a concert for 30p
Details and token
PAGE 36



Future shocks

Ralph Fiennes in a sordid vision of 2000
CINEMA, P37



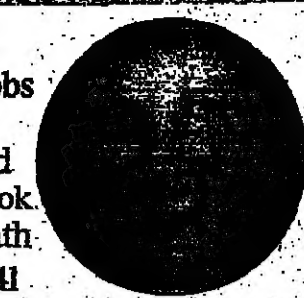
BODY AND MIND

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on hearts under strain
PAGE 16



BOOKS

Imogen Stubbs reviews a newly-found children's book by Sylvia Plath
PAGES 40, 41



APPOINTMENTS

24 pages of top jobs
SECTION 3



Princess agrees to divorce

'Her Royal Highness' prefix to be dropped from Diana's new title

By Andrew Pierce and Alan Hamilton

THE Princess of Wales last night announced she had agreed to a divorce and given up her right to be called Her Royal Highness.

The agreement formally to end the marriage was made at a meeting between the Prince and Princess of Wales at her office at St James's Palace late yesterday afternoon. A spokesman for the Princess said: "The Princess of Wales will be Diana, Princess of Wales."

A Palace spokesman said: "The Queen was most interested to hear that the Princess of Wales had agreed to the divorce. We can confirm that the Prince and Princess of Wales had a private meeting this afternoon at St James's Palace. At this meeting details of the divorce settlement and the Princess's future role were not discussed. All the details in these matters, including the settlement, will be discussed in due time. This will take time."

INSIDE
Legal details... 3
Diary... 18
Leading article... 19

spokesman said: "She agreed to give it up as part of the discussions."

No discussions have been held so far about a financial settlement which is expected to run into millions of pounds. "Lawyers began negotiations today," said her spokesman. The Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions relating to her sons and will live at Kensington Palace. The spokesman said: "She is feeling very sad that it is all over. But she is happy that clear arrangements have been put in place for the boys. That is a main thing."

The statement said: "The Princess of Wales has agreed to the Queen's request for a divorce. The Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions relating to the children and will remain at Kensington Palace with offices in St James's Palace. The Princess of Wales will retain the title and be known as Diana, Princess of Wales."

Pressure to end the failed marriage was given added impetus shortly before Christmas when the Queen, fearing long term damage to the monarchy, wrote to both the Prince and Princess urging a speedy divorce. Her letter came after an interview given by the Princess to the BBC

Panorama programme last November in which she admitted adultery and appealed for an ambassadorial role as a "Queen of hearts".

The Princess has been in no hurry to bow to palace pressure. But the announcement clearly indicates that discussions on a settlement have been going on for at least two months. During her Panorama interview the Princess said that she had no wish to initiate a divorce but stressed that if her husband started the divorce process she would not wholly oppose it. She also made clear that she would not "go quietly". She said: "That's the problem. I'll fight to the end, because I believe that I have a role to fulfil, and I've got two children to bring up."

The end of the royal marriage could be swift. If the couple reach agreement on property, finance and the arrangements for their children they could take the popular route to a "quickie" divorce which could be concluded within a matter of weeks. The announcement also took Downing Street by surprise and a Government statement is expected today.

Constitutionalists and leading clerics last night expressed relief that months of damaging speculation about the 1981 marriage was finally over. Lord St John of Fawley said: "It very sad that this marriage, which started with so much hope and promise, is about to come to an end. I think the Prince and Princess



The Prince and Princess met at St James's Palace yesterday after the Prince returned from a Gulf War service at St Paul's Cathedral



have taken the right decision in the interests of their families. Constitutionally this has no effect on the succession to the throne nor on his right to become Supreme Governor of the Church of England, which is dependent on statute and not on matrimonial status. "I hope that their privacy will be better respected than in the past. My hopes are greater than my expectations."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey has already expressed his concurrence with the Queen's letters to the couple. Lambeth Palace said: "He hopes and believes this is in the best interests of all concerned."

The Rt Rev Richard Harries, the Bishop of Oxford, said: "I am relieved. It is a more honest situation and helps to clarify matters. Although it is sad, it is healthier than the previous situation."

Divorce is not the real problem but remarriage after divorce. The couple's separation was announced by John Major in December 1992 after several years of intense media speculation. In December 1993 the Princess announced her intention to withdraw from public life and asked to be allowed to live away from the spotlight. In June 1994 the Prince of Wales admitted to Jonathan

Dimbleby that he had been unfaithful to his wife. He confessed to a long-standing affair with Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles, now herself divorced. He has made it clear that he has no intention of marrying her. There have been no discussions with the Government on whether or how the Princess should take on the role of roving ambassador. "That idea could take many guises. The whole concept would have first to be clarified by Buckingham Palace," the Foreign Office said yesterday. Last night the Prince of Wales had two engagements - visits to an art exhibition in central London and to a Hindu temple in Neasden, north-west London. Tonight the Princess is to go to Lancaster House to mark the end of the 125th anniversary celebrations of the British Red Cross.

Pubs to stay open until midnight

PUBLIC houses will be allowed to stay open until midnight on Friday and Saturday as part of the Government's drive to remove tight restrictions on drinking and gambling. Timothy Kirkhope, a junior Home Office Minister, will outline the proposals in a consultation paper to be published in the next month. The proposals will be the subject of a three-month consultation period.

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June 10 set for start of Ulster talks

By Nicholas Wood, Arthur Leathley and Nicholas Watt

ALL-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland will begin on June 10, John Major and John Bruton announced yesterday as they intensified the pressure on the IRA to call a fresh ceasefire.

After three hours of talks in Downing Street, the two leaders unveiled a detailed package of measures, including elections, designed to revive the faltering peace process. In a key concession to Dublin and the nationalists, Mr Major abandoned his refusal to set a firm date for all-party talks without the IRA beginning to give up its weapons.

He balanced that retreat by making elections a key plank of the countdown to negotiations. He also insisted, with firm backing from Mr Bruton, that Sinn Fein would not be

NEXT STEPS IN THE PEACE PROCESS

March 4 to March 13: Intensive discussions between Northern Ireland parties start. Sinn Fein to be included but restricted to dealing with government officials, rather than ministers, unless "credible" ceasefire is restored. Parties to reach agreement on "broadly acceptable" elective process, the basis of all-party talks and to consider whether parallel referendums should be held in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

March 13: John Major and John Bruton begin review of discussions.

Late March: British Government prepares legislation for elections and announces decisions on other matters discussed by parties.

Late April: Bill enabling elections to be rushed through the Commons.

Late May: Elections to a new body. Possible referendums.

June 10: All-party talks.

insistence that the IRA should call an immediate ceasefire. Mr Major said their agreement removed any lingering shred of justification for IRA violence and that the two governments were co-operating more closely than ever in hunting down terrorists.

Bertie Ahern, leader of Fianna Fail, the Republic's main opposition party, said in Dublin that he would be very disappointed if the IRA did not call another ceasefire soon.

Mr Major and Mr Bruton said that they would not allow themselves to be knocked off course by terrorism. The search for a lasting settlement would continue regardless of the IRA's response.

Mr Bruton said at a Downing Street press conference: "We will not be deflected from the timetable we have set. Continued on page 2, col 1"

Labour reaps poll rewards of Scott

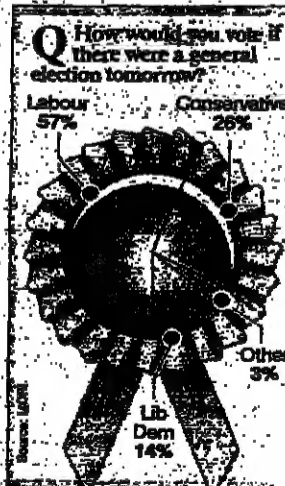
Labour reaps poll rewards of Scott

By Peter Riddell

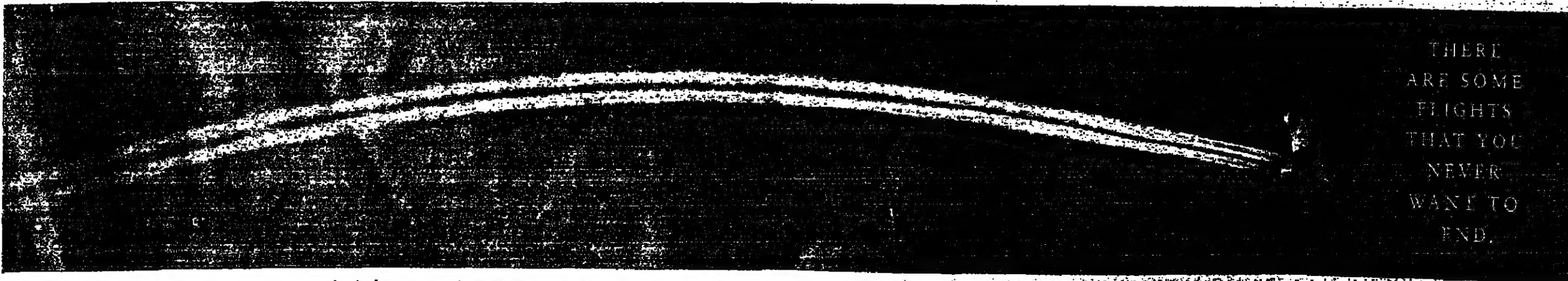
SUPPORT for Labour has risen to its highest level since last July as the Tories have been hit by strong public disapproval of their handling of the Scott report.

A MORI poll for The Times, the first to measure the full impact of the row over Scott, shows that just 8 per cent believe the Government has handled the inquiry well, and 69 per cent badly. By a more than three to one margin, the public think that the Ministers mentioned in the report should have resigned.

The poll, undertaken over last weekend, puts the Tories on 26 per cent, down three points since late January. Labour has risen two points to 57 per cent, the highest since July. Liberal Democrat support has risen one point over



the month to 14 per cent. MORI interviewed 1,577 adults at 138 ward sampling points across Britain between February 23 and 26.



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A single, shared experience is one too many for some

THIS would be, Virginia Bottomley hoped, "a single, shared experience for the whole nation". What would be? Princess Diana's divorce? Or is the phenomenon of Mrs Bottomley itself a single, shared experience for the whole nation: one we have been sharing for years, to mixed reviews?

The experience improves. As National Heritage Secretary Mrs B has lost the robotic eye-movements which marked her performance as Health Secretary. Relaxed and in folksy style

she had come to explain why Greenwich had been chosen to be the site of the Millennium Exhibition. This was what was to be the single, shared experience.

But not quite for the whole nation. There are pockets of resistance. Terry Dicks (C Hayes and Harding) greeted Mrs Bottomley's enthusiasm for a "Circle of Time" exhibition theme with derisive hoots. "There will be different interpretations of Time," Mrs B gurgled. "Action Time, Past Time..." "Waste of Time," snorted

Dicks. Nigel Forman, (C Carshalton) grinning, shook his head in despair.

"It will regenerate the cultural fabric of the country," chanted La Bottomley. Dicks rolled his eyes towards heaven and clasped his hands in mock prayer for deliverance.

"My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister," she sang, "has today announced that he has asked my Rt Hon Friend the Deputy Prime Minister to chair a co-ordinating group!" This shock development was greeted by gales of laughter

from both sides of the Chamber. Mrs Bottomley was unable to suppress a girlish giggle.

Her Labour Shadow, Jack Cunningham, aimed for grandiloquence in a Geordie accent.

Sadly the attempt crashed before take-off. "This," he declared, weightily, "has been a somewhat

extenuated process." "Extenuated?" cackled Conservatives, reminding us of Tony Blair on the Today programme, after a bomb. "This is incredible," New Labour, new dictionary.

But back to the Millennium. "It will combine the achievements of the past," Mrs B explained, "with the hopes of the present, to

provide inspiration for us all as we move toward the future." Mr Dicks began choking.

Also choking were the West Midlands's Jeff Rooker (Lab), Sir Norman Fowler (C), and John Butler (C), as Sir Michael Jopling (C, Westminster and Lonsdale) told MPs, with a vicious smirk, that "Birmingham is just somewhere you go through on the way to London".

And a new pocket of resistance opened up: John Biffen (C, Shropshire N) asked mildly whether Mrs Bottomley could create a "millennium-free zone" to shelter "all those who do not wish to be deafened and drenched by millennium-mania" for the next three and a half years.

Bottomley treated him a good deal less snuffily than Mr Biffen treated me 14 years ago when I asked him, as Leader of the House, whether time might be found to discuss anything but the Falklands conflict for the foreseeable future.

After Mrs Bottomley, John Major arrived to tell MPs about Ireland. Tony Blair's response, by necessity unheard, reminded us why his soundbite chefs may be worth their keep.

"In a sense, what we have now is an agreement to have discussions to agree the way forward, with at least, which is an achievement, the principle of the elective process being agreed. If not the mechanism. We have that rather than, obviously, the agreement on the way forward itself, but at least it maintains momentum." How true. But how extenuated.

'We do not support you. We abhor what you are doing. We want our peace back'

IRA terrorists defy family at O'Brien funeral

By NICHOLAS WATT IN GOREY

THE IRA defied the family of Edward O'Brien, the 21-year-old Aldwych bomber, when leading terrorists attended his funeral yesterday in Gorey, Co Wexford. A week after O'Brien's parents called on the IRA to stay away, a group of republicans slipped into St Michael's Roman Catholic Church for yesterday's service.



McCartney: terrorist and hunger striker

Raymond McCartney, a convicted IRA terrorist and former hunger striker, sat unseemly on a bench in a side aisle with four other republicans, including Willie McGuinness. They were surrounded by hundreds of local people who packed the church to express their sympathy for O'Brien's parents, Miley and Margo.

Father Walter Forde, the local priest, echoed the sense of disbelief in Gorey when he said that people were trying to work out how the son of such a respectable family had been drawn into the "sordid and terrible world of terrorism". He told the congregation in the church where O'Brien had served as an altar boy: "They will try to make sense of... how his misguided idealism was hijacked, reshaped and distorted by the God-fathers of violence."

In a powerful homily, Father Forde contrasted the courage of the O'Brien family in disowning violence with the "evil world of terrorism". As the republicans sat impassively in the church, he said: "The past ten days have brought us face to face with two images of Ireland. On the one hand we have seen the dark side of this island where a tiny minority who speak for nobody but themselves hijacked our peace and disfigured our identity... The other image of Ireland...

is of a community that cares, of people committed unequivocally to peace."

Father Forde said that the caring community represented the true face of the overwhelming majority. He added: "All these people, North and South, say without any equivocation to the men and women of violence, 'You do not represent us, you have no right to act or speak on our behalf, we do not support you, we abhor what you are doing, we want our peace back'."

Nissan Quinlivan and Pearce McAuley are currently on bail in the Republic fighting extradition to Britain where they are wanted to face charges of escaping from Brixton Prison in 1991. At the time of their alleged escape they were awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy to murder Sir Charles Tibbels, the former head of Whitbread, and conspiracy to cause explosions.

Quinlivan and McAuley looked on as Mrs O'Brien, who was shaking with grief, was supported from the church by her younger son Garry, 14. Mr O'Brien walked next to their daughter Lorraine, 20, who carried a single red rose.

Up to 2,000 people, including scores of republicans, then joined the family for a slow half-mile walk behind the hearse to the cemetery.

Within minutes of the graveyard service republicans walked up to the grave to pay respects to their "volunteer". A member of Sinn Féin said that republicans had respected the family's wishes by not mounting a paramilitary display. She said: "We are here in a personal capacity. We always respect the wishes of the family in these cases."

Later Father Forde criticised republicans for attending the funeral. He said: "The presence was a matter of much regret. They should have stayed away when they were told to do so by the family."



Nissan Quinlivan, centre, attending the funeral service yesterday against the O'Brien family's request that republicans stay away

Bomber muddled pm and am on timer

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA bomber Edward O'Brien blew himself up because he set the timer on the device for 10.30pm instead of 10.30am the following morning, according to police and security investigators.

O'Brien had a 24-hour timing mechanism linked to the 5lb Semtex bomb which he was carrying in a bag on the No 171 bus that exploded on February 18. He is believed to have intended placing the bomb in or near the Law Courts in the Strand to go off the next morning.

Investigators, building up a picture of the bomber's last moments, believe that he had set the clock before rising from his seat on the upper deck and the bomb exploded as he was getting off. The bus, with ten people on board, was travelling from New Cross to King's Cross and blew up in the Aldwych near the Strand, just after 10.30pm.

O'Brien's mistake showed the 21-year-old's lack of experience with explosives. The 24-hour clock has often been used by the IRA in timers on previous bombs.



O'Brien: died as he was getting off bus

London, and defused, six days after the Docklands bombing. The intention may have been to give enough warning of the Law Courts bomb for an evacuation of thousands of people that would have

snarled up central London. The fact that there have been no more IRA bombs since the bus explosion is believed to be for "political" reasons and not because the terrorists' plans have been disrupted by the bomber's death and the discovery of a bomb cache in Lewisham.

The three bombs since the end of the ceasefire have already succeeded in changing the political agenda. The original reason given by the Government for delaying all-party peace talks was the refusal by the IRA to hand over any of its weapons. This has been replaced by a demand for a second ceasefire in return for talks.

One security source said: "This does not mean, however, that the IRA is not planning further bomb attacks. We have to assume there is more than one bomb cache."

The driver of the bombed bus longs to thank the stranger who "saved his life", his daughter said yesterday.

Bob Newitt recalls virtually nothing of the incident. "He remembers that somebody stopped and stayed with him until the ambulance men got there and that is it," Vicki Newitt said on GMTV. "I don't know who the person was as he would really thank him himself for saving his life as he is concerned about his life."

Mr Newitt received blast injuries to his back and shock waves damaged his chest cavity and lungs. He left intensive care last week and is "comfortable" at University College Hospital, London.

June 10 set for start of Ulster talks

Continued from page 1

by the fact that the IRA might decide to continue their campaign. The IRA violence did not cause us to have this meeting and it is not going to cause us to alter the timetable in any way. We earnestly hope that the IRA will make it possible for Sinn Féin to take part in the negotiations. They need to reinstate the ceasefire of August 1994."

Mr Major said: "Until the ceasefire is restored, both

governments have made clear that there can be no ministerial talks with Sinn Féin." He added: "The two governments will carry forward that process irrespective of such action."

The package agreed by the two prime ministers includes "intensive multilateral consultations" between the two governments and the parties from March 4 to March 13. They will cover areas on which it has not been possible

to reach agreement: the format for the elections, likely to be held in late May; the shape of the all-party negotiations; and the possibility of a peace referendum north and south of the border, on the same day as the election, to demonstrate popular support for an end to violence.

As Mr Major made clear both at the press conference and in a statement to MPs later, the two governments will impose solutions if the

parties are unable to agree on these matters.

The communiqué also said that "confidence-building measures" would be required at the opening of the all-party talks. The parties would have to sign up to the Mitchell report's six principles, covering democracy and non-violence, and immediately address decommissioning of weapons.

Leading article, page 19

Leaders are agreed on way ahead

The following is an extract from the Anglo-Irish communiqué issued yesterday:

"The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach affirmed the fundamental priority they attach to securing the earliest possible inclusive negotiations should include all relevant parties which establish a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods and which have shown that they abide by the democratic process."

"Having undertaken the intensive consultations and the elective process as set out

below, all-party negotiations will be convened on Monday June 10, 1996."

"The Prime Minister reaffirmed the British Government's view that, having taken account of the differing positions of the parties and the view of the International Body, an elective process would offer a viable direct and speedy route to all-party negotiations. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed that an elective process would have to be broadly acceptable and lead immediately and without further

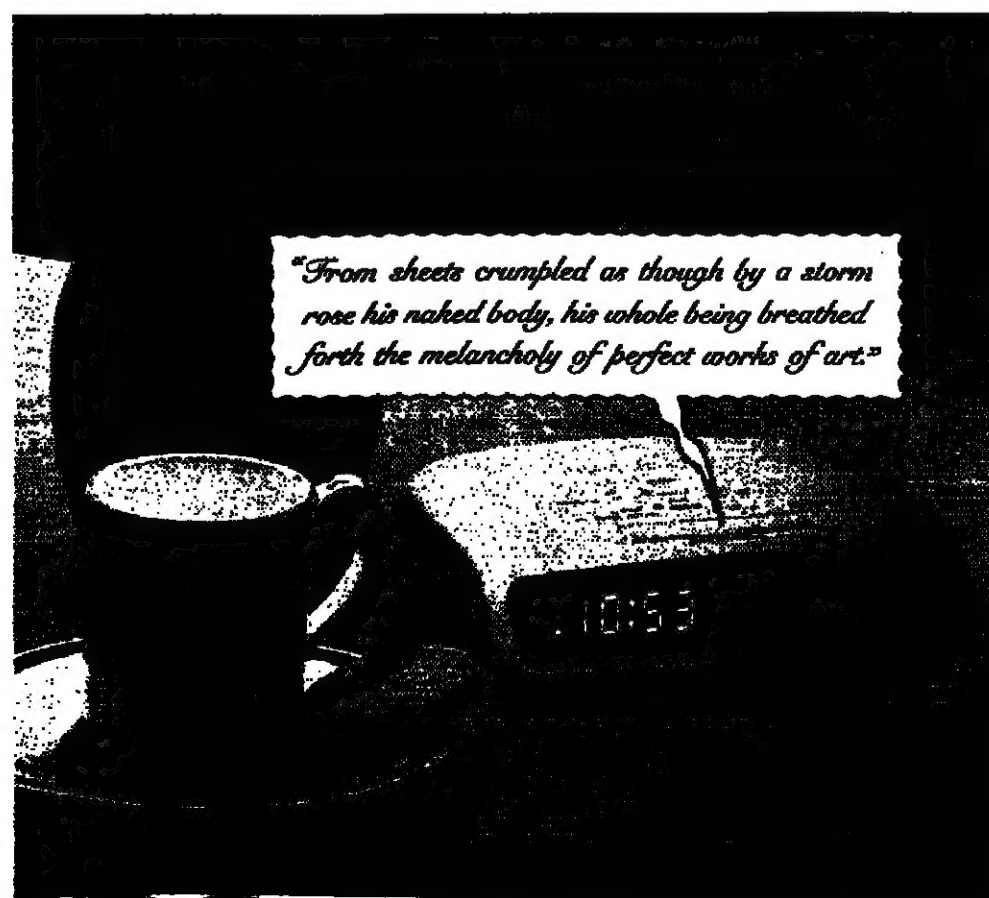
preconditions to the convening of all-party negotiations with a comprehensive agenda."

"The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agreed that details of an elective process were for the parties in Northern Ireland, together with the British Government, to determine. The Prime Minister confirmed that the necessary legislation for a broadly acceptable elective process would be processed as rapidly as possible."

"The Taoiseach, for his part

indicated that the Irish Government would support any proposal of that kind..."

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed that the two Governments will review the outcome of these consultations immediately after their conclusion on 13 March. Following that, the British Government will bring forward legislation on the elective process, based on a judgment on what seems most broadly acceptable, and decisions will be announced, as appropriate..."



"From sheets crumpled as though by a storm rose his naked body, his whole being breathed forth the melancholy of perfect works of art."

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Details of settlement will concern future of children and a 'clean-break' financial deal

Princess may get one-off payment of about £15m

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS for the Prince and Princess of Wales are preparing to hammer out the details of a divorce settlement which will embrace the upbringing of their children as well as their own finances.

At the heart of the discussions, which could run to several weeks, will be the education of Prince William, 13, and Prince Harry, 11 and what preparation they will undertake for public life.

Anthony Julius, the Princess's lawyer, said last night: "We have reached agreement in principle. We now have to work out the drafting of the agreement, the financial terms and matters relating to the children."

As well as the Princess's upbringing, there is the question of where they will live and what access each of their parents will have to them. At present, under the terms of separation, the Prince and Princess have equal access to

LEGAL POSITION

their children. Last night's statement makes it clear that the Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions regarding them.

The agreement in principle between the couple was believed to have been reached after resolution of the question of the Princess's title. Now the details of her finances are to be worked out.

The settlement is likely to involve a multimillion-pound deal on the basis of a clean break between the couple. This means that the Prince would not have to make continuing payments to his former wife but would pay her a one-off settlement.

There has been speculation that a sum of £15 million would be provided, which would give the Princess a net income of £500,000 a year. Such a lump-sum payment by the Prince would depend upon financial assistance from the Queen, who would be an inter-

ested party in the future of the young Prince.

The Duchy of Cornwall provides an annual income for the Prince and Princess of an estimated £3.5 million after tax, of which the Prince spends £2 million on official expenses and £1.5 million on private expenditure. Dividend income from the Prince's £2 million Stock Exchange portfolio nets an additional £50,000 a year.

As Duke of Cornwall, the Prince controls assets worth more than £90 million. But the Duchy is in trust for future Princes of Wales and cannot sell assets to raise cash.

The Princess's personal wealth is less obvious. Her brother, Earl Spencer, inherited the bulk of the family fortune including Althorp, the ancestral home. But she does have possession of jewellery worth an estimated £20 million. However, it is unclear whether she or the Crown owns the jewels.

Once agreement is reached, the divorce will go through on the basis of consent, after separation of two years. The process will be the same as with any other couple, starting with a petition being filed in the County Court or Divorce Registry in London, and could be completed in a matter of weeks. The petition sets out the grounds why the petitioner is seeking a divorce, together with the proposed arrangements for the children.

Once divorce papers are filed, it will be for the court registrar to certify the divorce. It should be granted after he has satisfying himself that all the papers are in order. The case will then be listed to go before a district judge for a formal announcement of the decree nisi.

When the list is read out — none of the parties has to attend court — the marriage will be well on its way to being consigned to history. Some six weeks later, the decree absolute should follow, leaving both parties free to remarry.

Mr Julius, of Mishcon, de Reya, heads the negotiations for the Princess. The Prince of Wales's lawyer is Fiona Shackleton, a partner with the Queen's solicitors, Farrer & Co.



The marriage that began with a kiss on the balcony will come to an end in the divorce courts. Neither is likely to attend the hearings

Outcome was inevitable after separation

By ROBIN YOUNG

SINCE their separation in December 1992, it has seemed inevitable that the Prince and Princess of Wales's marriage would end in divorce.

At first it was thought the grounds would be two years' separation, and that the divorce would be completed by the end of 1994. In 1993 the Princess's lawyers were thought to be pressing for an earlier divorce on grounds that they had, in effect, been separated for five years before the public announcement.

However, by August of that year she was recognised as having had a change of heart, because of fears that she would be frozen out by the rest of the Royal Family and would lose the public role in which she had found some solace. Her lawyers then began to seek an "accommodation for the future" whereby she and Prince Charles could continue to lead separate lives.

It was at this time that Lord Mishcon, the Labour peer and one of the country's top solicitors, joined the Princess's legal team. It then became clear that any move for an early divorce would have to be made by the Prince: the Princess would

resist it unless she was guaranteed custody of the children and secured a public admission that the divorce was Prince Charles's responsibility. Lord Mishcon negotiated with the late Lord Goodman, then representing Prince Charles, seeking some constitutionally acceptable settlement short of divorce.

In June 1994, the Prime Minister gave the Government's full backing to an assertion by the Prince of Wales in his television interview with Jonathan Dimbleby that divorce would not stand

in the way of his becoming King. The same interview contained the Prince's public admission of adultery.

Throughout 1994 there was speculation about the size of the settlement the Princess would demand for agreeing to a divorce. Figures from £15 million to £24 million, said to have been secured by the Princess's personal lawyer, Paul Butler, were quoted in newspapers, to be followed by reports insisting that she had

not received any money and was not asking for any.

In her television interview on Panorama in November, the Princess repeated her opposition to a divorce, emphasising that the decision lay with her husband, and appealed for a role as a public ambassador, voicing her ambition to be "a Queen of hearts". Those close to the Queen and the Prince immediately suggested that the Princess might be allowed to keep some form of royal status if the divorce went ahead.

Shortly before Christmas,

the Queen's patience ran out and it was made known that she had written to both the Prince and Princess recommending they seek a divorce.

The Prince's camp immediately let it be known that he accepted this recommendation, but the Princess did not respond, fulfilling her vow on Panorama that she would not "go easily".

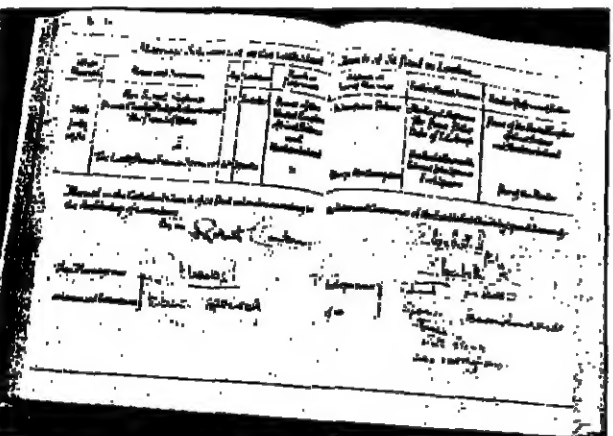
There followed more than two months of behind-the-scenes haggling, in which the Princess's interests were represented by Anthony Julius of Lord Mishcon's firm. Mishcon de Reya. The Princess needed to be satisfied about access to the children, her title, living accommodation, and her financial settlement.

She rejected suggestions that she should use her family home, Althorp House in Northamptonshire, as her base. She also refused suggestions that she might be styled Duchess of Cornwall or Her Grace, Duchess of Gloucester. Her team countered with demands that she should be allowed to issue royal warrants in her own right. However, Buckingham Palace was determined to avoid any possibility of the Princess establishing a rival "court".

PUBLIC WORDS ON A PRIVATE MATTER

Princess Diana, Panorama interview, Nov 20, 1995: "I don't want a divorce, but obviously we need clarity a situation that has been of enormous discussion over the last three years in particular. So all I say to that is that I await my husband's decision."

Prince Charles, Dimbleby interview, June 29 1994: "When asked if he intended to proceed with a divorce: 'You wouldn't really expect me to tell you what was in my mind. At the moment it's not a consideration. It is something very private between my wife and myself.'"



The register of the marriage at St Paul's in 1981

Defeat in battle to retain 'HRH'

By RUSSELL JENKINS

LAWYERS for the Princess of Wales appear to have lost their legal battle with her husband's advisers over her right to retain her full royal title.

The matter of titles has yet to be officially agreed. Buckingham Palace said last night: "All the details on these matters, including titles, remain to be settled. This will take time."

Mishcon de Reya, acting for the Princess, wrote to her husband's solicitors earlier this month urging them to consider the possibility of her continuing as Her Royal Highness. The Princess's statement yesterday, however, said she would be known as Diana, Princess of Wales.

Lord St John of Fawsley, the constitutional expert, said the title would be "in accordance with normal usage..."

TITLE

should Prince Charles marry again then his wife would become Princess of Wales. This is the agreed usage."

He added: "A divorce does not affect the constitutional position of Prince Charles in any way. That is true, also, of his eventually becoming Supreme Governor of the Church of England."

"The position of the Princess of Wales is radically changed by divorce because she will not become Queen. On the other hand, she will retain her status and title. This is fair to her and right and will be welcomed by the country."

It is important that she should be recognised as a continuing member of the Royal Family and have the support of the family and give her support to the Queen."

Size of the cash payout became a battleground for the Waleses

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Princess's financial security is one of the hardest-fought areas of the divorce negotiations. As mother of the future King she is said to have demanded enough for an office, staff and secure home. Estimates of the settlement she wanted ranged from £12 million to £15 million.

The Princess, like the Prince, draws no money from the Civil List. However, her Kensington Palace home is publicly funded through annual grant-in-aid from the Department of National Heritage.

She is thought to be worth up to £20 million in her own right, inherited from her father Earl Spencer on his death in 1992. This is believed to earn her up to £1.5 million a year in interest, and is mainly tied up in stocks and shares and held in trust.

However, it is understood that the Princess has no intention of financing her lavish lifestyle from her own capital.

The Prince of Wales has a £4.5 million annual income from his Duchy of Cornwall estate. This would not be enough to finance such a settlement and he would not be allowed to sell off any of the Duchy's 125,000 acres.

From it he pays the salaries and offices of both his own and the Princess's staff, and has paid tax at the normal rates since 1993.

The size of the Princess's own future office and staff depends entirely on the role she is given. She has made it very clear that she is keen to adopt an ambassadorial role for Britain. However, that is likely to entail heavy security and personnel expenditure,

SETTLEMENT

particularly since the end of the IRA ceasefire. Since her "retirement" from public life in 1994 Diana has insisted on travelling without police protection. But the estimated cost of security in 1993, met by the Metropolitan Police Royal Protection Squad, was £3 million.

Any future office would be moved from its current suite of rooms within St James's Palace, which is shared by the Prince's staff.

The Princess currently spends about £160,000 a year. Of this, around £70,000 is on clothes — with designer dresses at £1,500 a time — £15,000 on shoes, handbags and jewellery and £2,000 on hairdressing.

Her membership of the Chelsea Harbour health and fitness club costs £3,375 a year. Vanderbilt Tennis Club

annual membership is £1,549 and her personal fitness training is estimated to cost £4,160.

Skiing holidays with Princes William and Harry cost around £20,000, although many of her holidays in exotic resorts are funded by friends. Beauty treatments also cost an estimated £20,000 a year.

Divorce will mean the Princess relinquishing her Duchy of Cornwall American Express card and her Mastercard in the name of Wales. The bills are currently sent to the Prince, who is said to have bitterly complained at the level of expenditure on clothes.

His estate and Highgrove home is owned by the Duchy and held in trust for future Princes of Wales. After his £1 million tax and £2 million staff bills he is thought to have just £1 million a year in disposable income.

Princess Royal to play key role

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Princess Royal could emerge as a key figure when the Prince of Wales becomes King, although Buckingham Palace has dismissed the idea of her acting as an official consort.

She is likely to provide strong support to her brother in a role which is both arduous and lonely. In a world without the present Queen and Queen Mother, it would seem the Princess Royal would be the natural choice to stand firm beside a King without a Queen.

She would be able to provide some of the glitter at state occasions that would otherwise have been provided by a Queen, accompanying him on state occasions at home and abroad. The Princess has been groomed for the part and has won respect and

admiration for her work on behalf of charities and other good causes.

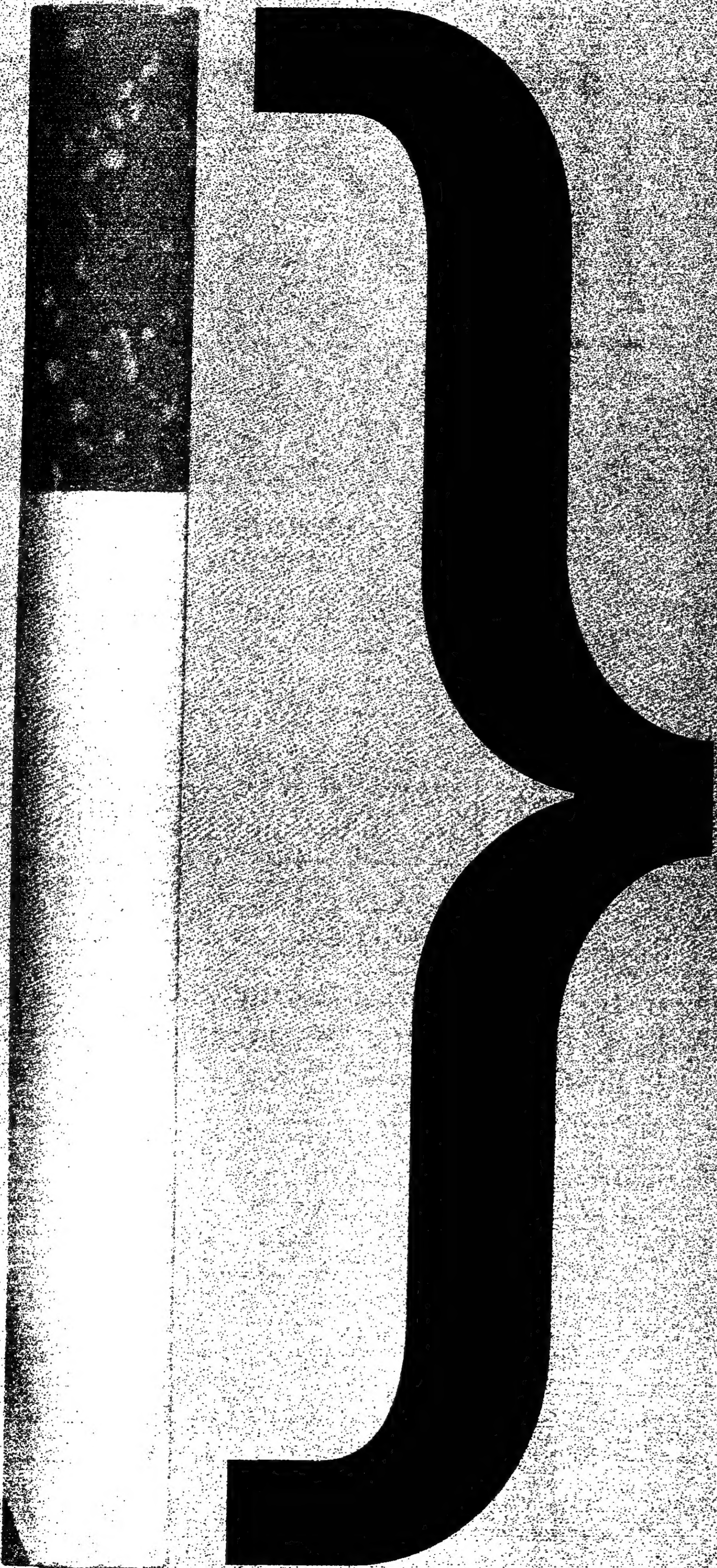
She joined the elite Order of the Garter last year, a high honour marking her out as ready to take the lead as a figurehead, alongside the King, and as someone born into the Royal Family knows all the intricacies of court plus the sense of duty imbued into its members.

The Prince has already announced that he has no intention of marrying Camilla, Parker-Bowles. Although she could in theory one day become Queen, it would take an enormous shift in public attitudes. For the foreseeable future she will remain in the background, organising the Prince's house parties and participating in his private social engagements.

The original paper

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'It's really so unfair. He is the man who gave me the drugs. I told the truth all through my trial'

British teacher in Bangkok heroin case gets 25 years

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

A BRITISH woman was led weeping from a court in Bangkok yesterday to start a 25-year prison sentence for heroin trafficking. Sandra Gregory, 30, cried: "Please tell my mum I'm sorry. I want my mum." before she was taken back to Lard Yao women's prison, known as the Bangkok Hilton.

Robert Lock, the man Gregory claimed had given her the heroin and \$1,000 (£650) to take it to Tokyo, was found not guilty by the same court. Gregory called him a bastard, adding: "It's not fair. It's really so unfair. I feel really terrible for my parents. He is the man who gave me the drugs. He is the one who lied. I told the truth all through my trial."

Mr Lock, 30, visibly delighted, was told he was not yet free to go. He was ordered to be detained pending a decision by the public prosecutor within the next month whether to appeal against the verdict. If the appeal court reverses the verdict, Mr Lock could face the death sentence.

In Britain, his mother, Linda, said on hearing that he had been cleared: "This is just fantastic. We were expecting the worst. I am really so



Lock cleared but still being held in prison

relieved. Now we have to wait to see what the prosecution will do. I do not feel for sorry for Sandra. She tried to get my son into trouble. She got what she deserved."

Mr Lock said he wanted to thank all connected with his case. "I want to thank my mum and Prisoners Abroad in England especially." Prisoners Abroad is a charity that tries to help Britons in foreign jails.

The news for Gregory, a teacher from Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, was not all bad. A British Embassy spokesman said she would be entitled to a transfer back to jail in Britain after serving one more year, having already been incarcerated for three years in Bangkok while the trial dragged on.

There was mayhem outside the court, as police armed with sub-machineguns tried unsuc-

cessfully to break up press and television crews anxious to hear what Gregory had to say. Afterwards, both prisoners were taken away. Mr Lock to Khlong Prem men's prison, where he has been accused of possessing 0.75 grams of heroin.

Gregory, who pleaded guilty to trafficking 89 grams of heroin, received the lightest possible sentence. She and Mr Lock were arrested at Bangkok airport in February 1993 as they checked in for a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight to Tokyo. Police had been tipped off by a woman agent known as Kanchana - "Pure Gold" - employed in the British Embassy's drug liaison office. Gregory was carrying the heroin packed in condoms inside her.

Gregory told the court that she had fallen ill with dengue fever after two years spent teaching English in Bangkok and needed the money urgently for a ticket home. She said that Mr Lock, from Cambridge, had offered her \$1,000 to carry the drugs for him. Mr Lock, however, told the court that he hardly knew Gregory. They had met on a train on the way to the airport, he said.

It emerged in court that the Thai police had been asked to watch out for Mr Lock, not for Gregory, who was previously unknown to them or to drugs investigators. She was not suspected until she arrived with Mr Lock.

The Foreign Office has been criticised by campaigners for Mr Lock in Britain, led by his mother and the Labour MP for Cambridge, Anne Campbell. They said the Government should not tip off the Thais about British citizens. They claimed that, with such little evidence against him, Mr Lock would never have been charged in Britain.

The British Embassy in Bangkok said it was withholding comment about the outcome of the case pending the prosecution's decision on whether to appeal. In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said no decision had been made about intervening on Gregory's behalf.

Asked whether she was hopeful of such a move, Gregory said: "Not a hope in hell. They have told me they won't." However, her lawyer said he hoped she might be included in a royal amnesty expected later this year to mark King Bhumibol Adulyadej's fiftieth year on the throne.

Gregory described conditions at the "Bangkok Hilton" as terrible. "There are 2,300 of us there. We all sleep on the floor." Her colleagues on drugs charges include six South Africans, more than 20 Americans, Swedes, Danes,

French, German, and large numbers from Nigeria and Ghana.

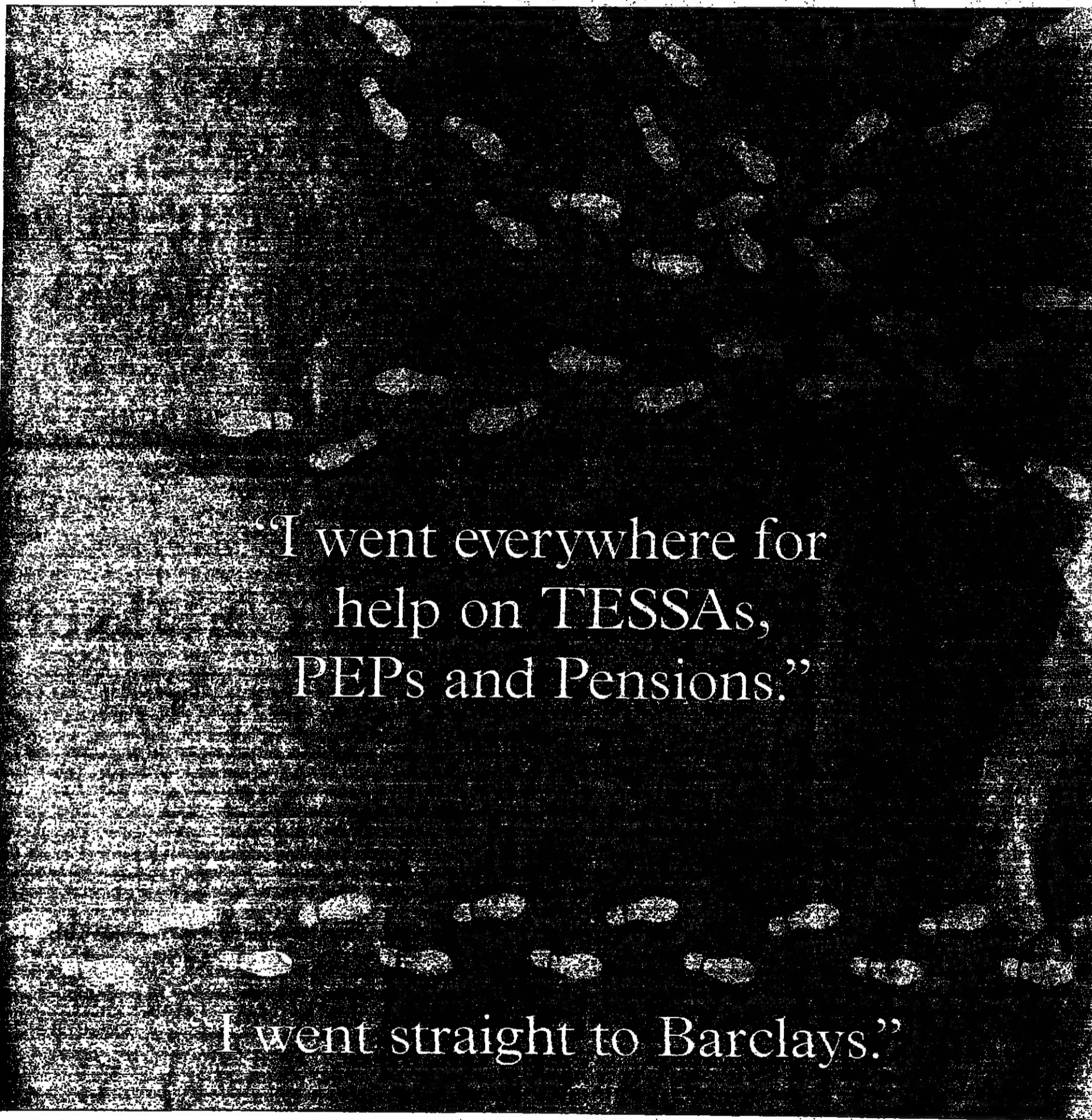
The prisoners are woken at 6am and are given a breakfast of rice soup with a piece of fish head, buffalo meat or chicken. Afterwards they can do various jobs: Gregory works in the bakery.

In her dormitory more than 100 women sleep head to toe, side by side. There are no beds but prisoners can buy a thin roll-up mattress.

Gregory has had all privileges withdrawn and visitors turned away after a BBC reporter attempted to smuggle a tape recorder into the prison. Gregory said after yesterday's hearing: "They are giving me a terrible time. I don't know why the journalist did it. What effect did he think it would have on me?"



Sandra Gregory, with tears in her eyes, is taken away from court in Bangkok yesterday after being told of her sentence for heroin trafficking



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Rugby to set rules on narcotics tests

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

PUPILS at Rugby School will be tested for drugs if teachers notice a slump in their performance in the classroom or on the sports field under plans being put to parents.

Next month the 430-year-old school in Warwickshire will consider asking parents to sanction urine tests if their children are suspected of taking banned substances. It will also consider scrapping its policy of expelling pupils automatically for drug offences.

Random testing has been ruled out, but a statement said that parents would be approached if drug use was suspected "following signs of marked deterioration of performance in work and games, or the display of other drug-related symptoms".

Rugby, where boarders' fees are £12,720 a year, is one of several leading schools considering the introduction of drug testing after a review

by the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference. It is among the first to spell out what might trigger a demand for a urine test.

Michael Mavor, Rugby's Head Master, said yesterday that the school would aim to educate pupils, staff and parents about the symptoms of drug abuse as well as its consequences. The co-educational school (motto *Orando Laborando*) has expelled a handful of boys for drugs offences in recent years.

Parents would be asked to approve any substantial change of approach. No tests would be carried out without their consent. Teachers have held regular meetings with senior pupils' parents, who have welcomed the plans.

Rules to be in place by September are likely to replace expulsion for a first cannabis offence with counselling and regular tests to ensure that there is no repeat.

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Cash shortage forces hospitals to disregard clinical need when rationing latest drug

Chance of cancer therapy depends on your postcode

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A SHORTAGE of money is forcing National Health Service cancer centres to provide a two-tier service to patients, with some being offered the latest treatments while others are not.

The decisions on who to treat, which affect patients' chances of survival, are being made on financial, not clinical, grounds. People treated at oncology centres in London and Southampton are being told that their right to receive the latest drugs depends on their postcode and not on clinical need.

The cancer centre at the Royal South Hampshire Hospital, Southampton, which is facing a £350,000 overspend, is giving the new drug for ovarian cancer, Taxol, only to women whose health authorities have agreed to pay the

£9,000 cost. Taxol, derived from the bark of the Pacific yew, has been shown to extend survival in women with advanced ovarian cancer by 50 per cent, from two years to three, when added to existing treatments. The *New England Journal of Medicine* said in January it should be considered "standard therapy for women with advanced ovarian cancer".

Dr Roger Ryall, clinical director of the Southampton centre, said: "It means a patient living on one side of the road may be getting the treatment while one living on the other side in a different health authority is not."

Cancer centres in London have experienced similar difficulties. Professor Michael Richards, clinical director of the centre at St Thomas's

Hospital and chairman of a group representing the 12 largest centres in the UK, said he would be meeting the Government's Chief Medical Officer. "It is quite unacceptable that a patient living in district A gets the treatment while a patient living in district B does not, even though they are being treated by the same consultant at the same centre."

An unpublished survey of the 12 largest cancer centres, which serve half the population, has revealed wide variations in levels of treatment and funding. Centres in Leeds, Newcastle, Birmingham and Cardiff are among those which are understood to have overspent their budgets. Earlier this month the Bristol Oncology Centre disclosed it was turning away terminally ill patients and concentrating



Professor Michael Richards examines a mammogram. He hopes a survey will support the case for more funds

on potentially curable cases because it was £500,000 overspent. In Southampton, the cancer centre has closed beds, cut staff and limited bone marrow transplants.

Professor Richards said: "The centres at the bottom of the scale will have a very good

case for more money. It is vital that the Government knows this so that it doesn't think a few maverick oncologists are to blame for the problems when they are affecting the whole country."

Medical advances, especially in chemotherapy, and the

ageing population mean the number of patients referred for specialist treatment has increased substantially, according to Professor Richards. "In the last five years consultants in local hospitals have realised there are benefits from chemotherapy for com-

mon cancers such as those of the stomach and bowel, and are sending patients for treatment who would never have come to cancer centres before," he said. There are 5,000 cases of ovarian cancer in the UK each year and 4,000 deaths.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



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Cut night calls to GPs, says Dorrell

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS were urged yesterday to think twice before calling out their doctor at night to ensure that people in serious need get prompt and effective care. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said patients should recognise that an unnecessary call at night inhibited a doctor's capacity to provide high-quality service to others the next day.

Unveiling a £2.75 million advertising campaign aimed at curbing the rapid rise in night calls to GPs, which have doubled in the past three years, Mr Dorrell said: "General practice is the jewel in the NHS's crown but that can only be sustained on the basis of a healthy partnership between doctors and patients."

The campaign was agreed with the British Medical Association as part of a complex

deal to end the dispute over out-of-hours work by GPs last September. Doctors blamed the increase in night calls on a 24-hour culture and the rise in consumerism. An increasing number of calls were for trivial complaints - from patients who had run out of tampons or lost the key to the medicine cabinet.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA's GPs committee, who joined Mr Dorrell yesterday, said out-of-hours calls should be limited to emergencies. "It isn't an extension of the daytime service. Tired doctors don't make good doctors." Advertisements urging patients to consider whether there may be others in greater need before calling the doctor will run in national newspapers during March at a cost of £750,000.

Dr Bogle expressed irritation at criticism of the campaign by John Spiers, chairman of the Patients' Association. Mr Spiers told *Today* on Radio 4 that vulnerable patients living alone might be deterred from calling the doctor.

Dr Bogle said: "I am in the 34th year of practice in inner-city Liverpool and in my experience patients who are genuinely worried will not be put off from seeking care."

Body and Mind, page 16



Dorrell: unveiled doctors' campaign

Red Cross birthday appeal raises £82m

By JOHN YOUNG

THE British Red Cross 125th Birthday appeal, which officially ends today, succeeded in boosting contributions to nearly £82 million last year, a 14 per cent increase on 1994.

The appeal was sponsored by *The Times* as its 1994 Christmas charity campaign. John Gray, Red Cross director of public affairs, thanked readers yesterday. "Much of what we achieved we owe to *The Times*."

The Princess of Wales, patron of the appeal, will

attend an official celebration at Lancaster House in London today, and will launch a fundraising initiative, known as Help4d, in which products sold in shops will carry advertisements for other (non-competing) brands, the income from which will go to meeting humanitarian needs.

The birthday appeal attracted 30,000 new donors, and included one individual donation of £500,000.

Call to ban mines, page 13



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Mackay faces defeat as 80 women lead cross-party rebellion in Lords

Peers pledge to give divorcees access to husband's pension

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government is facing an embarrassing defeat in the House of Lords today over its refusal to accept the idea of a divorced woman being allowed to share her former husband's pension.

A formidable cross-party alliance of peers has promised to back an amendment during the report stage of the Family Law Bill this afternoon which will give women access to their former husband's pension at the time of divorce. At present divorcing couples can split their pension only at the time of retirement. Labour and Tory rebels believe their proposal would prevent divorced couples' financial affairs being unnecessarily entangled for up to 35 years.

They are also concerned that thousands of divorced women are forced to live in penury in their old age waiting until their husband decides to draw his pension.

The 80 women peers, many of whom are rarely involved in legislation, are leading the way. Baroness Hollis of Heigham (Labour) and Baroness Young (Conservative) have attacked Lord Mackay's Divorce Bill, which they consider to be deeply flawed.

They are joined by the

Baroness O'Cathain (Conservative) and Baroness Sear (Liberal Democrat). Many male peers, including the former Law Lord, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a former matrimonial judge, and Lord Marsh, a former Labour minister, have also said the move is imperative "on the grounds of compassion and logic".

Lord Mackay has leant over backwards to stop the revolt by announcing a consultation paper on pensions although no changes will be included in the current Bill. He also tabled a further amendment earlier this week to encourage couples to stay together by insisting that during the mediation period of a divorce the mediator must always emphasise the concept of reconciliation.

Baroness Hollis yesterday dismissed the paper as "an underhand delaying tactic". She refused to accept the Government's arguments that the process would cost too much, be too complicated and could be open to abuse.

In a written answer yesterday, the Government said pension splitting would eventually cost the taxpayer £180 million a year. Baroness Hollis said the figures had taken into account all those who

were married as well as those divorcing; the figure would be neutral.

Pension splitting is supported by the Pensions Management Institute, the Confederation of British Industry, the Law Society, Age Concern and the National Association of Pension Funds. "The pensions industry has seen this coming for a long time. They have already worked out the technicalities. This amendment would focus their minds," she said.

Baroness Young has added two contentious amendments to be debated tonight. She wants a minimum wait of 18 months instead of a year for pensioners with children. She also believes that the concept of fault should be kept in divorce proceedings, rather than the Chancellor's proposal of a no-fault divorce available to all after a year.

She is supported by an array of bishops and Catholic peers as well as many family-minded rightwing Tory peers. The Lord Chancellor has laid down amendments to try to placate the rebels, saying the welfare and wishes of children should always be respected.

But Baroness Young is convinced that divorce is far too



Divorce proceedings: Baroness Young, left, Baroness Hollis and Lord Mackay

easy and causes havoc for the children involved. She believes the Bill will harm many divorced women who have devoted their lives to bringing up their family. Yesterday she

said: "Marriage is a contract and there are such things as obligations and responsibilities."

Lord Mackay has the support of the majority of Labour

peers over the two amendments and is likely to be able to squash them. But MPs on both sides have made it clear they will fight the Bill when it moves to the Commons.

Blair at odds with unions on 'concessions'

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR last night denied that he had made concessions to trade unionists over improved recognition rights in the workplace.

His statement came after union claims that they had finally secured the Labour leadership's backing for their demands for greater negotiating rights. They insisted that they had managed to persuade Mr Blair to accept their proposal that if a majority of the workforce agreed in a ballot that a trade union should represent them, the union should be given full negotiating rights.

The unions argued that this would help them to recruit more members and ensure greater union representation among the workforce. "How can we start recruiting until we are recognised at a workplace," one official said.

The official conceded, however, that if the ballots went against the unions they could lose any foothold they had already secured in firms.

"The TUC policy is even-handed and no good employer has anything to fear from it," a GMB official said. "It puts the ball firmly in the union's court, to prove that they can recruit members. We are delighted that the Labour Party seems to be moving in this direction." He insisted that this was a shift from the position before 1992 when unions were automatically recognised in the workplace if

they had recruited more than 50 per cent of employees.

Mr Blair's office made clear that there was no movement and "no shift". A source said the position had already been spelt out in the Labour leader's speech to the TUC last September.

In the speech Mr Blair said: "Where a majority of the workforce have chosen to have a union represent them, they should have the right to have that representation recognised by their employer in law."

But union chiefs last night said Mr Blair had never explained what he meant by the remarks and pointed out that there was no policy paper on the issue. They argued that Mr Blair had not until now endorsed full recognition rights for trade unions — that is, negotiating rights — rather than representation rights.

Union sources accused Mr Blair of shifting his ground in private meetings with union leaders but refusing to concede this in public.

Last night leadership sources countered that full recognition rights, probably after a ballot of the entire workforce, had been agreed a year ago. They admitted, however, that the details had still to be worked out.

Mr Blair recently ruled out a new policy paper on union legislation before the election and has made clear that there will be no change in the position on trade union rights.

Ministers thwarted by 'mafia'

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON

THE Deputy Prime Minister admitted last night that the power of all ministers could be frustrated by the existence of a "Whitehall mafia".

In a revealing insight into the inner workings of Government, Michael Heseltine said ministers often had merely "influence" rather than real power. "The constraints of the

system are much more pervasive than people understand. A minister can give orders but there are endless ways he will be frustrated. He will be told 'that isn't policy' or that he doesn't have authority." There were "other ways these matters can be arranged", Mr Heseltine told the Commons Public Service Committee.

In a story that sounded as if it had come straight from a

Yes, Minister script, Mr Heseltine said that in his early days in office he had decided on a certain course of action against the advice of his officials. "Then there came a letter out of the blue from the Treasury sternly warning that 'collective discussion' was needed before any action. How had the Treasury known? 'The mafia,' Mr Heseltine said darkly.

Labour look again at Lloyd candidature

BY JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR'S ruling body is to launch a formal investigation into John Lloyd, the parliamentary candidate for Exeter who has admitted involvement in terrorist bombings in South Africa in the 1960s.

The move, approved by the National Executive Committee yesterday, coincides with further setbacks for Labour after bitter selection battles in two other constituencies, Glasgow Govan and Swindon North. The NEC turned down

the men chosen in both constituencies after inquiries exposed serious flaws and breaches of procedure in the selection process.

The selection process in Glasgow Govan is to be rerun after allegations of vote rigging, while the NEC has opted to set up a special selection panel to choose a candidate in Swindon North, where there have also been allegations of ballot irregularities.

Mr Lloyd was a member of the African Resistance Movement, a small group of

intellectuals opposed to apartheid, and responsible for a dozen bombings against targets such as electricity pylons and radio masts.

Opponents of Mr Lloyd, who alleged he betrayed a fellow conspirator who was later executed, want to see him deselected. The NEC agreed yesterday to carry out a full investigation before any decision was taken on whether his candidature should be re-endorsed. The panel will include John Prescott, Clare Short, and Tom Burlison, the party's treasurer.



Lloyd: Investigated

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Outcry forces rethink on criminal who wants compensation for 'pain and distress' caused by injuries

Legal aid stopped for shot robber who is suing police

By RICHARD FORD AND FRANCES GIBB

AN ARMED robber who is suing the police for shooting him during a raid on a Post Office van had his legal aid suspended yesterday. Steven Charalambous was shot three times by police marksmen in February 1993 after he ignored their demand to drop his gun, which turned out to be an imitation.

Embarrassed officials at the Legal Aid Board announced the suspension after claiming that the board had not been given the full facts of his case when the initial limited fund-

ing was granted. About £1,200 was given for a ballistics report to be obtained after a barrister advised that it was an appropriate case for funding from the £1.5 billion annual budget for legal aid.

But solicitors acting for Charalambous have been told to explain why they did not disclose the full facts of the case when they applied for funding to sue the Metropolitan Police. Steve Orchard, chief executive of the board, said: "We have given the solicitors acting for this man

14 days to provide us with an explanation as to why certain matters known to them were not disclosed to us when they made their application."

Charalambous, 35, of Finsbury Park, north London, was shot during Operation Odessa, involving more than 20 Flying Squad officers. The three-man gang intended to ambush the Post Office van, which was carrying about £250,000.

During his trial at the Old Bailey, Charalambous admitted conspiracy to rob and firearms offences. He was jailed for five years and is now in Holesley Bay prison in Suffolk.

He has issued a High Court writ claiming compensation for pain and distress suffered when Flying Squad marksmen opened fire as he held the replica handgun to the head of a postal worker in Crouch End, north London. His writ alleges that the shooting was "trespass to the person" and claims damages for "excruciating pain, fear, shock and lasting emotional distress".

He is demanding £335 for clothes damaged in the shooting, plus travelling expenses for relatives and his girlfriend who visited him in hospital.



Steven Charalambous, right, lying wounded after being shot by police in 1993. Beside him are his toy policeman's helmet and imitation gun



He is also claiming almost £1,000 for food they bought to help him to put on weight.

Police officers and MPs protested yesterday at the decision by the London area office of the Legal Aid Board to grant Charalambous a limited certificate for a sum believed to approach £2,500. Detective Sergeant Gordon Livingstone, one of the officers named in the writ, said: "It is ludicrous, and I am not speaking just as a police officer but as a member of the public and a taxpayer."

Officials at the board held a series of meetings before issuing a statement suspending the grant. It had believed that he

was injured when unarmed, that the police had known he was unarmed and that they had been acting on a tip-off. The board also had no knowledge that there had been a full inquiry into the shooting by the Police Complaints Authority, which cleared Detective Sergeant Livingstone and his officers.

Mr Orchard said that no money had been paid to Joseph Hill and Co, the solicitors acting for Charalambous. Naheed Faiz-ahad, Charalambous's solicitor, was not available for comment yesterday. She was granted a certificate to practise as a solicitor in November last year, according to the Law Society. A

statement from Joseph Hill said: "Mr Charalambous claims that he was a victim of violence which almost killed him. The events relating to the shooting have never been tested in court. He is as entitled as any other citizen to seek compensation if the violence was not justified."

The decision to grant limited legal aid for preliminary investigations was made by a junior official in the board's London office. The board must consider two things: the merits of the case and a means test, which is worked out according to a formula on the same basis as other means-tested benefits.

The decision on merit was reached after the board took opinion from Emily Driver, a barrister, on whether the case had a reasonable prospect of success. She is said to have advised that it was an appropriate case for legal aid to commission a ballistics expert's report.

Detective Sergeant Livingstone yesterday denied charges in the writ that he had dragged the wounded Charalambous up by the collar and forced him to pose for a photograph, wearing the toy police helmet he had used in the raid.

He told the *Evening Standard* in London: "The other officers and I acted absolutely by the book and that was

confirmed after an official inquiry. This is an armed robber who dressed as a policeman and held what we thought was a real gun against the head of a terrified security guard. He was a vicious, dangerous thug."

Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said that the decision to grant Charalambous legal aid in the first place was an example of "a world gone mad". He said: "We have got a system in this country where the goodies are the baddies and the baddies are the goodies. I hope the Metropolitan Police vigorously defends this. All this is doing is putting money into lawyers' pockets."

Damage to clothing:	
White shirt	£15
Black trousers	£120
Grey/orange jacket	£50
Black boots	£50
Glasses	£100
Watch	£50-£100
Travelling expenses incurred by family visiting him in hospital:	
Five relatives, two trips daily over seven days, £10 each way	£140
Taxi fares of girlfriend Bernadette Boss	£20
Taxi fares of mother	£50
Relatives' loss of earnings:	
Andrew (brother)	£100
Costas (brother)	£100
Father (three days at £50 a day)	£150
Additional expenditures:	
Injuries and loss of weight while on remand for six months	£480
Money sent by relatives to allow him to buy food	£824
TOTAL	£2,579

Rule changes to weed out the wealthy 'unworkable'

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS signalled renewed clashes with the Lord Chancellor yesterday over new rules designed to crack down on the abuse of legal aid.

The Law Society and other legal groups said they supported the aim of the rules — to stop the "apparently rich" obtaining legal aid — but said that hundreds of people who genuinely deserved it could find themselves penalised because they had put their savings into a home.

Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, said the rules were "nonsensical". Russell Wallman, a society official, described them as "absurd and likely to cause injustice".

The changes, introduced by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will ensure that the value of a person's home, above a cut-off level of £100,000, is taken into account when they are assessed for legal aid.

Officials assessing the



Mears described the changes as nonsensical

means of people seeking legal aid will also be able to include the assets of friends, relatives, and children where "these appear to be providing a significant material advantage to the applicant".

In addition, the Legal Aid Board is to set up an investigations unit that will look into legal aid applications where the person enjoys a wealthy lifestyle, has substantial busi-

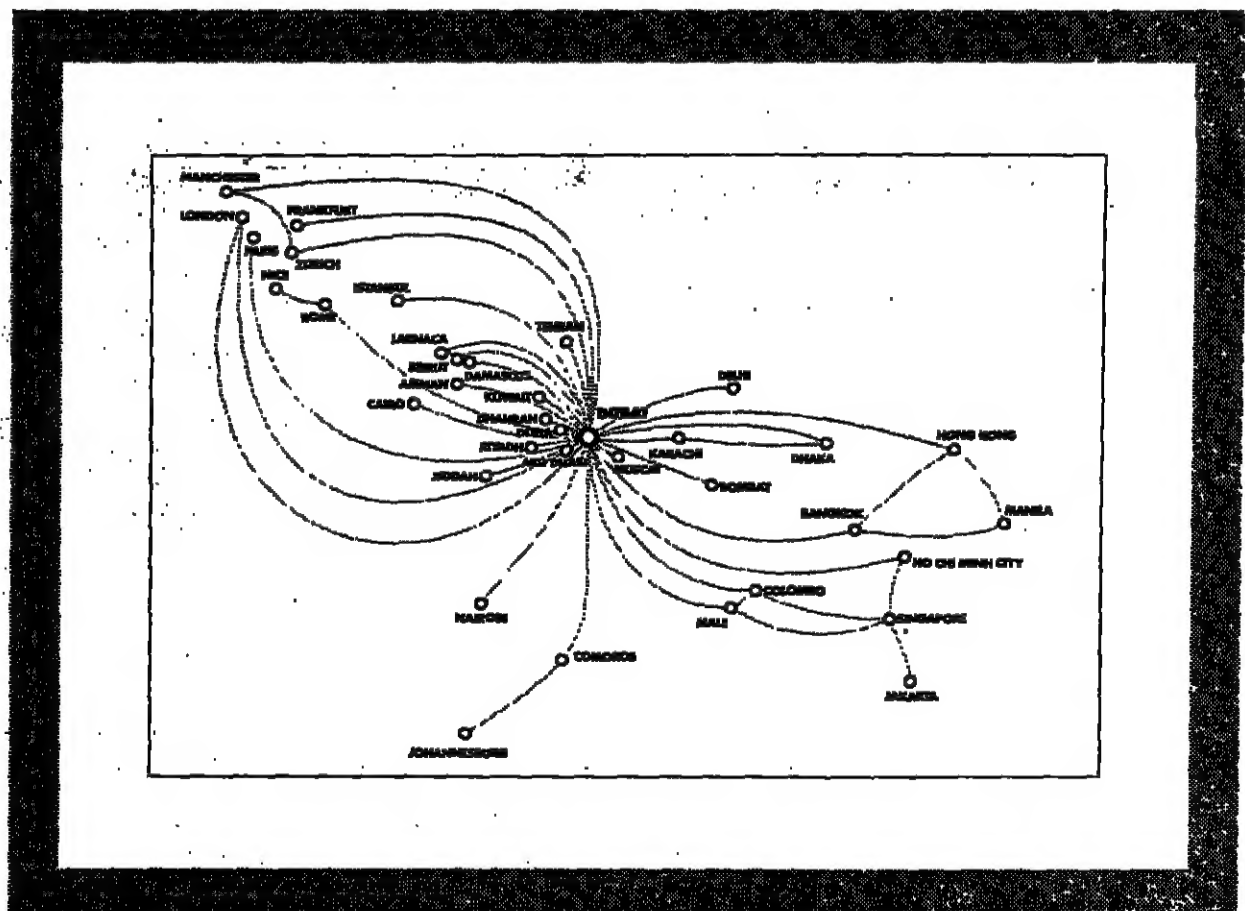
ness assets or access to assets or income apparently owned by others.

The new rules, which will come into effect on June 1, also limit to £100,000 the amount of mortgage that can be offset against the equity value of a house and against income.

The Law Society, which has been at the forefront of the campaign to close loopholes allowing the "apparently wealthy" to exploit the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme, said some of the new rules, which have been laid before Parliament, were "unworkable".

Mr Wallman, the Law Society official in charge of legal aid, said: "People with a home of, say, £250,000 which is fully mortgaged will find themselves assessed as having £150,000 equity. So either they will be denied legal aid on the basis that they can afford lawyers, or they will be granted legal aid but asked to pay a contribution to their legal costs from capital they don't have."

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Blair at odds with unions over concession

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Bidders for naval college may unite

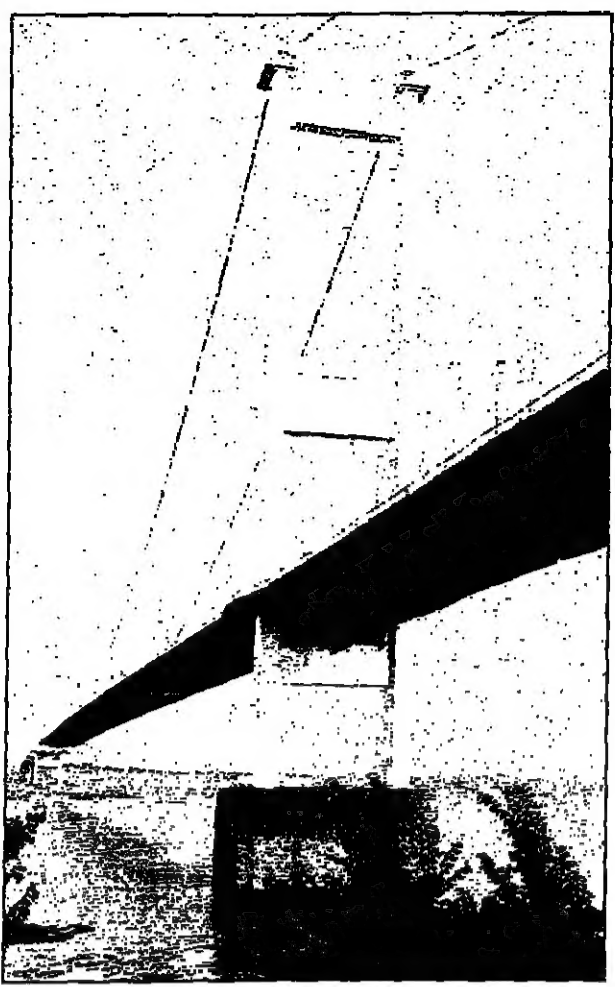
By NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL
CORRESPONDENT

THE Hong Kong businessmen who own Battersea Power Station could finance part of the Greenwich University bid to buy the Royal Naval College.

In return, the Asian property consortium would run language courses for overseas businessmen in Sir Christopher Wren's elegant buildings at Greenwich.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, is due to make a decision on the sale this summer. Ministry of Defence officials have concluded that only three of the original eight bidders are credible.

These are Greenwich University with the National Maritime Museum; the Hong Kong-based Parkgate group headed by the Hwang brothers (the two bids that could be linked); and an unknown American university.



The Severn Bridge, which was completed in 1966

River landmarks lead postwar buildings recommended for listing by English Heritage



Recommended for listing, from left: A2 footbridge at Swanscombe, Kent; Eel Pie Island footbridge, west London; Kingsbridge footbridge, Durham

Bridges span a heritage gap

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Severn Bridge and the Kingsgate footbridge in Durham city were recommended yesterday for Grade I listing as structures of outstanding historical and architectural significance. They head the latest list of postwar structures that English Heritage would like saved for the nation.

The public will be able to give its verdict on the merits of the 67-strong list at an exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects, the first time such public consultation has been undertaken.

Postwar buildings were excluded from listing until 1987, when English Heritage put forward 70 nominations.

Only 18 were accepted by the Government, including the Royal Festival Hall and Coventry Cathedral.

English Heritage hopes that public support will bring more success this time. Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman, said: "We believe these buildings are the best architectural landmarks of their type of the postwar period. This new challenge of deciding which modern buildings merit special protection involves us all and we hope that this exhibition will stimulate the widest possible public debate."

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, told a conference at the Royal Institute of British Architects yesterday that recent years had seen a series of fine new buildings,

and that our successors may marvel at the International Terminal at Waterloo and the Channel 4 headquarters in London.

"Given the modern pace of change, unless we make some attempt to anticipate now what future generations will find of value, many fine buildings will be lost before anyone has had the chance to stop and think about their importance," she said.

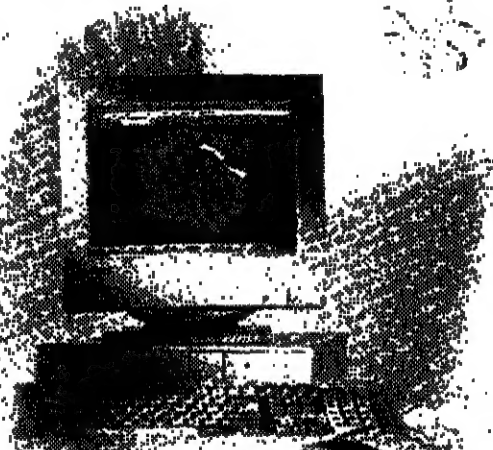
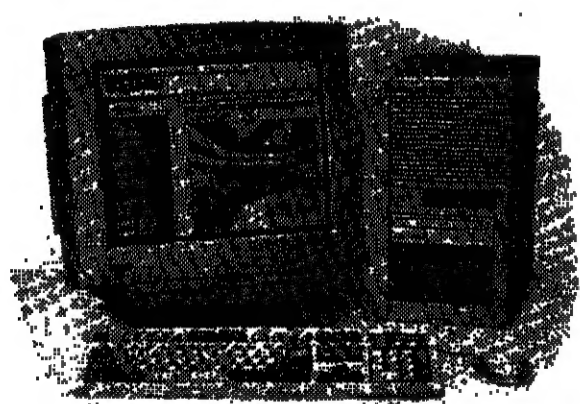
The Severn Bridge, completed in 1966, and Kingsgate footbridge, built in 1963, are recommended for the highest listing status. Eight buildings are recommended for Grade II listing: the Royal College of Physicians in Regent's Park, London; Christ Church Picture Gallery, Oxford; Wood Street

police station, City of London; the American Military Cemetery Chapel, Madingley, Cambridgeshire; Scargill Chapel in Kettlewell, North Yorkshire; the Roman Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd in Woodthorpe, Nottinghamshire; St John the Evangelist, St Leonards, East Sussex; St Paul's Church, Ecclesfield, Sheffield. The rest of the structures are recommended for Grade II listing. The present list of postwar listed buildings totals 181.

The exhibition at the RIBA, in Portland Place, London, will run from tomorrow until March 23.

Listed buffers at Glasgow Central station are to be restored after cracking in severe cold weather. The water-filled buffers were installed 93 years ago.

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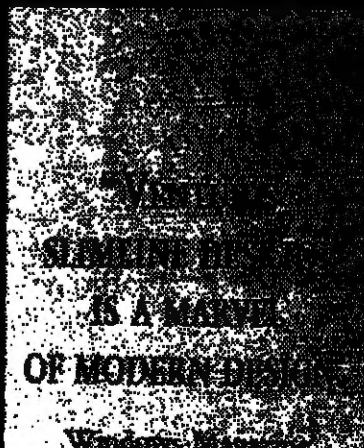
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One freed in Pescado death trial

One of two men accused of manslaughter after the Pescado sank in 1991 with the loss of its six crew was acquitted at Bristol Crown Court. Alan Ayres, 56, *de facto* director of Guideday, which owned the Plymouth-registered scalloper, was freed after submissions by Richard Lissack, QC, for the defence.

The judge told the jury: "There is no evidence fit for your consideration as to the allegation of negligence made against Mr Ayres." Joseph O'Connor, of Plymouth, the managing agent of Guideday, denies six charges of manslaughter. The trial continues.

Baby's fatal bath

A baby girl drowned when her three-year-old brother lifted her from her cot and tried to give her a bath, an inquest in Swindon was told. A verdict of accidental death was recorded on Jessica Fanning, eight months, of Swindon.

Police inquiry

An inspector and five junior policemen from Derbyshire face a disciplinary inquiry over allegations of discreditable conduct during an investigation into alleged brothels.

Foxhounds killed

Eleven foxhounds out of 35 in the South Dorset Hunt pack were killed by a high-speed train after chasing a fox on to the line between Wareham and Wool.

Spirits seized

Drugs squad police and customs officers seized two firearms and spirits worth £30,000. A large still was found on the farm at Boduan, near Pwllheli, Gwynedd.

Fun park fined

Drayton Manor Park, Staffordshire, was fined £15,500 by Tamworth magistrates for safety offences after a five-year-old boy was seriously injured on a ride.

Squirrel slaughter spreads to save trees

By MICHAEL HORNSEY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

THE poisoning of grey squirrels is to be stepped up because of concern about the damage they do to trees by eating the bark during the spring and summer.

Lord Lindsay, the Forestry Minister, yesterday gave permission for Warfarin rat poison to be used against grey squirrels in Co Durham, Norfolk, east Suffolk and other parts of England where it had been banned. Use of the poison is also to be extended to north and central Wales and, for the first time, to a few areas in Scotland.

Grey squirrels were introduced to Britain from North America in 1876. There are estimated to be 2.5 million of them, about 15 for every native red. Reds have disappeared from most of England and are found mainly in Scotland.

Sycamore, beech and oak are particularly vulnerable. Lord Lindsay said: "The damage is so great in some areas that it is proving a disincentive to new tree-planting, with landowners and farmers reluctant to invest time and money simply to have woodlands destroyed in their early years." The poison will be put in feed hoppers that other wildlife cannot enter.

From next month a six-month trial will be conducted on Anglesey, using poisoned bait in hoppers fitted with weighted flap doors which the heavier greys can push open but the lighter reds cannot. There are about 50 reds on Anglesey, compared with 1,000 greys.

If the hoppers work as intended, killing greys but not reds, they will be introduced throughout Britain in the hope of saving the native squirrel from extinction. Everywhere that greys have become established, mainly because they are less adaptable and less good at finding food.

Sorry I'm late, I've got a syndrome

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A UNIVERSITY psychologist has worked for five years to discover that tasks always take longer to complete than we expect. "Task completion wishful thinking syndrome" is a universal human trait, according to Dr Dale Griffin.

From decorating the spare bedroom to digging the Channel Tunnel, we all tend to underestimate how long it will take and fail to modify our expectations on the basis of experience. Promises are cheap, says Dr Griffin, of Sussex University, who has yet to write up his findings for publication. People who make them ignore their past history of missed deadlines and assume that everything will go smoothly this time.

He interviewed 1,000 people, mostly students. He found that they were often out by weeks in estimating when they would finish important tasks, despite being asked to name a date that could be met

even if everything possible went wrong. But when asked if they had been late with comparable tasks in the past, 70 per cent admitted they had. When asked to estimate how long a colleague will take for a task, however, people give much more accurate guesses.

Dr Griffin analysed students with projects to complete, businessmen with tax returns to fill in, families with a car that needed repairing and friends intending to put up a shelf. Regardless of the job, the result was almost always the same, he found.

He says that he is fairly reliable with big tasks but terribly late with unimportant ones. "I'm reasonably good at completing academic work if there's a deadline, but when it comes to something like taking the family on a trip, I'm hopeless at estimating how long it will take to get them ready. However often it happens, I get no better."

Why po has on

MP settles 'drunk' libel case

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Why police force of 2,500 has only 125 on the beat

By STEWART TEMPLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

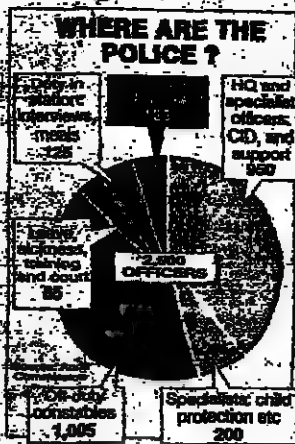
THE average police force of 2,500 officers can send only 125 of them on patrol at any one time to cover a population of a million, according to a report published today by the Audit Commission.

Although police allocate 60 per cent of resources and £4 billion a year to patrol work, only 5 per cent of manpower is on the beat at any one time. Other officers are lost because of shift systems, sick leave, 24-hour coverage and specialised work.

The report shows that a typical town of 180,000 people would have ten officers on patrol at any one time, covering 230 pubs, 95 schools, 6,000 houses, 770 miles of road, and 1,400 miles of pavement.

The officers who do patrol are increasing and unrealistic demands from the public. But at the same time forces do not see their scarce patrols efficiently and send them chasing to many non-urgent calls.

The commission found that 9 per cent of the public felt patrols gave them reassurance.



However, 80 per cent were also unhappy with the level of foot patrols. Apart from clearing up burglaries, this was the only area where the public were dissatisfied.

In *Streetside: Effective Police Patrol*, the commission says: "patrolling officers are vital to an accountable police service. To increase the number of beat bobbies, the commission recommends curbing 999 calls by providing a 333 helpline for non-essential calls and encouraging more special constables by paying them a

retainer. Control rooms did not properly screen emergency calls. In forces such as Hampshire 35 per cent of calls were treated as emergencies while in others it was less than 10 per cent. Thames Valley had cut the figure from nearly 38 per cent to 12 per cent.

The report says that nearly 10 per cent of police divisions also had serious mismatches of manpower to work demands. The maximum number of officers available for patrol was at 3am, which is one of the quietest periods. Sickness levels varied from five days per officer in the West Midlands to 20 days per officer in Merseyside, a comparable force.

There are also problems over police attitudes to beat patrols. The job was often carried out by trainees and officers were put on the streets when they were demoted from other work. Only 30 per cent of officers surveyed by the commission felt their forces considered patrolling as very important work.

The report notes: "The perception that patrol work is not a specialism is to independent observers not entirely rational."

The officers were often first at an incident and constantly in contact with the public. They frequently had to make instant decisions.

Laying to rest the notion that England and Wales can be policed by a generation of avuncular Dixon of Dock Green figures patrolling their beats, the report concludes that officers need to be more efficiently deployed, better briefed, and need to have a much clearer idea of what they are trying to achieve.

Andrew Foster, the Controller of the Audit Commission, said: "Patrol is the cornerstone of effective policing. It reassures the public who hold it in high regard and forges links with communities. But some forces could learn from others. They could target patrols more effectively, being seen more often outside schools at home-going and pubs when they are closing."

Speaking for the Association of Chief Police Officers, Keith Povey, Chief Constable of Leicestershire, said crime had doubled since 1980, 999 calls had risen by 133 per cent and police manpower had increased by 8 per cent.



The Dixon of Dock Green image no longer fits

Today's forecast: Met Office chief to return bonus

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Meteorological Office is to be asked to repay bonus payments he received after incorrect claims that accuracy targets had been met. The all-party Public Accounts Committee found yesterday that Professor Julian Hunt, the chief executive, had received a bonus of £4,800 "because he reported having achieved three targets which had been missed".

The report also found that, despite the investment of considerable sums of money, the accuracy of Met Office gale warnings had declined with potentially disastrous results for shipping.

Weather forecasters had defended themselves stoutly against claims of inaccuracy in a highly critical report from the National Audit Office last year but MPs who interviewed officials have rejected their defence and increased the pressure on Professor Hunt.

Richard Mottram, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, which runs the Met Office, told MPs that their report would determine whether the chief executive would be asked to repay the bonus, made in 1993-94. The committee, which scrutinises all aspects of public expenditure, expressed "concern" that the reliability of Meteorological Office forecasts had deteriorated in some areas and shown only "modest improvements" elsewhere.

Gale warnings and frost warnings had shown a significant reduction in "hit rate", although false alarm rates had improved. MPs found that the Met Office had presented "inaccurate and misleading" reports of its performance to Parliament for the past two years. The report said the inaccuracies were "quite unacceptable" and asked the Ministry of Defence to ensure that accuracy was improved.

The report further found that targets were insufficiently challenging, having remained unaltered even when beaten in previous years. MPs said that tougher targets were important because of pay bonuses.

Forecast, page 24

MP settles 'drunkard' libel case

By JOANNA BAYLIS

THE Labour MP George Howarth settled his libel action against *The Guardian* yesterday over an article which he said portrayed him as a "boorish, foul-mouthed and uncivilised drunkard".

Mr Howarth, MP for Knowsley North, accepted that he claimed was "a substantial five-figure sum" over an article which said he had bumped into the writer Fritz Spiegl in Soho and had uttered an expletive rather than apologising.

The MP's counsel, Michael Tugendhat, QC, told Mr Justice French: "Whoever was involved in that incident, it was not Mr Howarth". *The Guardian* accepted it was a case of mistaken identity.

Professor Sir Cyril Chantler, Principal of the United Medical and Dental Schools, was paid £110,000 in 1994-95, not £139,000, as stated in a report (February 10), and does not therefore head the university principals' pay league.

Chen Chen, the nine-year-old pianist (report, photograph, February 23), is not a student at Birmingham Conservatoire, but is taught privately by Beryl Chempin.

Alan Clark arrested at checkpoint

By STEPHEN FARRELL

ALAN CLARK, the former Defence Minister, was arrested yesterday after allegedly driving his Range Rover through a police cordon during a bomb alert. Mr Clark, 67, a former Conservative MP for Sutton, Plymouth, was held for obstruction and taken to Bow Street police station in central London.

He is said to have argued with police officers and then driven through the cordon they set up in Piccadilly, central London, after reports of a suspect package. Mr Clark, who left the House of Commons in 1992, was later released and bailed to return to Bow Street in April pending a report to the Crown Prosecution Service.

An answerphone message at the Old Eborians' house at Salwood Castle, Kent, yesterday evening said: "This is Alan Clark. The whole thing is a complete misunderstanding. The police were, as always, wonderful and I have nothing more to say."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said last night that the arrest was made shortly after 2pm: "It is alleged that the man became argumentative with officers on the cordon and allegedly drove his Range Rover through the cordon."

The suspect package later turned out to be a false alarm.



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Brussels rebukes British official in ethics scandal

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday rebuked Michael Emerson, its former Ambassador in Moscow, for a breach of ethics and said it would continue its investigation into allegations that he may have committed a more serious offence in his dealings with Russian businessmen.

The Commission granted a request by Mr Emerson, 55, one of the most senior British "Eurocrats", for early retirement because it had found no grounds for disciplinary proceedings, an official said. The Commission deplored the fact that his conduct had "not strictly conformed" to the ethics required of European Union civil servants, he said.

The Commission could start disciplinary proceedings later if the investigation, which is also being carried out by the Belgian police, produces new evidence. Like most national civil servants, EU staff are barred from pursuing professional or any paid interest outside their official function.

Mr Emerson, a former top official for economic affairs, has been at the centre of a Brussels scandal with a cast of characters that includes, among others, Russian businessmen and a wronged American husband. It erupted



Emerson: his request to retire early granted

when Marshall Michel, the American husband of a Russian woman who worked for Mr Emerson, handed the Commission and the Belgian police copies of letters. Last weekend, the police raided the Brussels home of the woman, Yelena Prokhorova.

Last night, Mr Emerson welcomed the fact that the Commission had found no grounds for further action against him. "There was no foundation to the allegations of corruption and all that business," he said. He added that his business plans in Moscow were part of his legitimate preparation for a job after his early retirement.

He did not know whether he would pursue his project, but "it's not the end of my life".

Mr Michel said he found the documents on his computer last month after his wife had left him for Mr Emerson. One of the letters made available to *The Times* carries Mr Emerson's name and reports to a Moscow consultancy firm on a joint project with Ilya Baskin, a St Petersburg businessman. It mentions plans to transfer funds to offshore bank accounts and the use of gold and silver as credit.

Mr Emerson confirmed last night that the letter was his, but noted that it referred to a future project. Another letter, in Russian, sets out a project for a consultancy firm whose president would receive a \$1.6 million (£1 million) advance and \$30,000 a month.

The Commission's inquiry so far, conducted by its fraud investigation branch, had found that no "commercial or financial transaction" had taken place while Mr Emerson was serving as Ambassador, the spokesman for Jacques Santer, the Commission President, said.

The Emerson affair has severely embarrassed the Commission as it seeks to dispel charges of mismanagement from some member states and from the European Parliament.

Mr Emerson's involvement in one of the more lurid scandals to erupt in the Commission has amazed colleagues who know him as the straight-arrow civil servant who advised Lord Jenkins when he was Commission President and played a big part in setting up the European Monetary System.

Basque region will fall to Right

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN BILBAO

NOWHERE in Spain will Sunday's predicted victory for the conservative Popular Party (PP) be more telling than in Andalusia, the southern home state of Felipe Gonzalez, the Socialist Prime Minister, and in the Basque country.

The PP is also expected to humiliate Señor Gonzalez in simultaneous regional elections in Andalusia and match the Basque Nationalist vote in the north.

The Prime Minister admitted on Tuesday night to a group of sympathetic intellectuals at Madrid's Fine Arts Circle that he would lose the vote on March 3 because he had failed to tackle government corruption. But Spaniards are also looking to the PP to reduce the highest unemployment rate in Europe, of 23 per cent, and combat terrorism — the dominant issues of the campaign.

"The economic crisis and violence are the two main issues here," said Ander Gurrutxaga, professor of sociology at the Basque University in Bilbao. "The great majority of Basques are fed up with having Eta [guerrilla] guns held at their heads. Eta has to go, before we even get close to planning how an independent Basque state would work, if at all. Increasingly, the civilised Right is voting for the PP."

A Basque government survey shows that only 39 per cent of Basques identify themselves as nationalists, and 30 per cent would consider independence.

"The day that violence ends, Euskadi [the Basque nation] will be able to assume without fear the challenge of regaining the leading economic position that it has not had for so many years," an editorial in *El Correo*, Bilbao's newspaper, declared this week.



José María Aznar, expected to win Sunday's election, campaigning in Barcelona

A plan to give the old industrial port a facelift has been marred by weekly clashes between police and members of Jarrai, the separatists' youth movement. On Friday night Bilbao's restored old quarter is a no-go area in spite of its trendy new boutiques and bars, many of which are forced to pay protection money to Jarrai.

Opinion polls predict that the PP, led by José María Aznar, will defeat the Socialists for the first time in 13 years. In the Basque region, where Madrid-based parties

— especially those seen as right-wing — have fared badly, polls show the PP running neck-and-neck with the conservative Basque Nationalist Party (PNV). The Socialists lag, their copybook bloodied by using death squads to kill Eta suspects. Herri Batasuna, Eta's political wing, may poll 14 per cent of the votes.

Jaime Mayor Oreja, the head of the PP in the Basque region, has been winning support by accusing the PNV, which runs the regional government, of being ambivalent in tackling the guerrillas.

Karmelo Landa, a leading member of Herri Batasuna and an MP in the Basque parliament, said this week: "Eta is at the moment showing great strength and activity and really damages the Spanish state. This is a factor that whoever forms the government in Spain will have to bear in mind."

Madrid: Spanish police yesterday arrested six people in the Basque country and transferred five of them to the high court in Madrid for allegedly collaborating with Eta. (Reuters)

Killer stalks Italian spa city

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE sleepy spa town of Merano in northern Italy was dubbed "the city of fear" by the Italian press yesterday after the fourth murder there in three weeks.

The murders have followed a similar pattern, leading the police and apprehensive residents to suspect "that a serial killer is on the loose. We are all living in fear," said Franz Alber, the Mayor. "We are dealing with a psychopath."

All the victims have been shot in the head with a 22-calibre pistol, the attacks taking place between 8pm and 10pm. The latest to die was Paolo Vecchiolini, 36, an electronics factory worker, shot while waiting for his fiancée outside a bookshop in the square in front of Merano's Gothic cathedral.

The fiancée, Ivonne Samo, was walking across the largely deserted square towards him and saw a tall blond man carrying a rucksack approach her fiancé and shoot him with a pistol. She screamed, and the murderer fled.

The killings began on February 8, when a German Bundesbank official, Hans Otto Dehmmer, and his companion, a local woman teacher, were shot dead in a central street, not far from the scene of the latest killing.

There was speculation at the time that the "Bundesbank murder" was connected either with an international banking scandal or with a tangled love affair. But it was followed a week later by the murder of a 58-year-old farm labourer on the outskirts of town. He was shot in the head at close range.

Merano police said last night that Signorina Samo had given them a full description of the killer, a man in his late thirties with a beard.

Turkish leaders to take turns at top

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TWO months after a general election, Turkey looks almost certain to have a government, albeit not the one most commentators were expecting.

Mesut Yilmaz's right-wing Motherland Party has withdrawn from two weeks of negotiations with the pro-Islamic Welfare Party, which is openly critical of the secular foundations of the Turkish state, and re-entered discussions with the True Path Party of Tansu Ciller, the caretaker Prime Minister.

Mr Yilmaz and Mrs Ciller met yesterday and announced an agreement in principle on a

form of power sharing. They are to take turns being Prime Minister. Little separates the two parties ideologically, but bitter mistrust between the two leaders stood in the way of previous attempts to forge an alliance. Mrs Ciller, whose party won more seats in the December election, appears to have dropped her insistence that she should have first turn at the premiership.

Even as a coalition, the two parties will lack an absolute majority in the assembly and will have to rely on one or both of two left-wing parties to get a vote of confidence through.

French plot to bring invading Franglais under their spell

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

WORD FOR WORD

Le parking le parquingue
Le pull-over le pule-au-vers
Le baby-boomer le bébébumère
Le crooner le crunère
Le shampoo le champ-od
Le football le fútbol
La star la starre
Le sandwich le sandouiche

The paper's "Top Ten list of dangers facing French" also identified poor teaching, the power of television and the weakness of the "cultural classes" as reasons why English and American terms are spreading steadily through the language of Molière.

In English, of course, the use of French terms is already a "fautescomply" (faul accompli), and

changing their spelling would undermine their very "raison d'être". But the latest effort to roll back the tide by gallicising the spelling of foreign terms might also be interpreted as an admission that Franglais has taken root.

"The French language is a masterpiece, yet it is a masterpiece in peril," Jean-Marie Rouart, the literary editor of *Le Figaro*, observed in an editorial thundering against "galloping anglicanism".

But he also admitted that "however tempting, it is impossible to outlaw all undesirable words such as 'must, drink, look, fun' and the like, and firmly send them back on planes to their country of origin".

English continues to gain ground. A recent survey found that in secondary schools and universities, 94 per cent of students chose it as a second or third language, while the

study of German, Italian and Spanish declines.

Last month a law requiring radio stations to play at least 40 per cent of all pop songs in French came into effect — and was widely derided as unworkable. The EU is investigating whether it infringes rules on the free movement of goods and services within the single market.

Previous initiatives have sought to ban Franglais and other foreign words from product labels and advertising, with only limited success. The new model of Renault car, for example, is called a "Next".

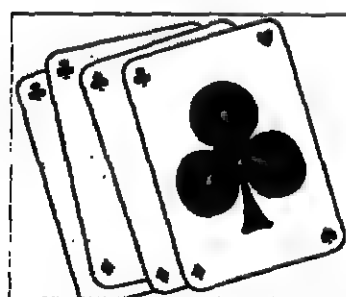
The attempt to respell imported words faces an uphill battle since Franglais appeals to many young French precisely because it sounds foreign and exotic. A Paris café offering "La Appiaudère" (Happy Hour) simply does not have the same élan, cachet or panache.



How *Le Figaro* illustrated its attack on the erosion of the language of Molière by English and American terms

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Widow refuses to judge

Paris: For the first time since the death of François Mitterrand, his widow Danielle has spoken publicly about the former President's illegitimate daughter and his long relationship with another woman (Ben Macintyre writes).

Mitterrand loved his daughter, Mazarine Pinget, enormously. Mme Mitterrand told L'Express. "A person is capable of loving someone passionately and then, as the years go by, of loving differently, perhaps even more profoundly, and then one can fall in love with someone else. The greatest hypocrisy is to want to pass judgment on that."

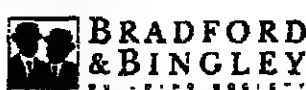
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Britain to grant visa concession for Hong Kong

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR is preparing to tell the people of Hong Kong that they will be granted visa-free access to Britain after the territory is handed back to mainland China next year.

He is also expected to deliver a strong warning today to Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, of the need to make Hong Kong confident that China will observe a promise to allow its citizens a continuing measure of freedom.

Mr. Major, who will be making his last visit to a British Prime Minister before he hands over when he arrives in the colony on Saturday night, is poised to announce that the two million Hong Kong Chinese who would not at present have automatic access after 1997 will be able to travel freely without visas. These will be the holders of Hong Kong SAR (Special Administrative

Region) passports. About 14,000 of them visited Britain last year. The 3.6 million Hong Kong British-dependent territory citizens who will receive British national overseas status after 1997 will remain entitled to visa-free entry.

The move comes after a Cabinet argument. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has been resisting the concession on the ground that entry without visas could create a backdoor route for illegal immigrants from mainland China. But Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has been pressing for more travel freedom, fearing that China will otherwise hit back with tighter visa conditions on British citizens visiting Hong Kong. He has been backed, crucially, by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr. Major has already come under attack over Britain's

refusal to grant free entry and a U-turn would be widely welcomed.

The Prime Minister, who left London last night for a six-day trip to the Far East, is expected to see Mr. Li tonight in Bangkok, where he is to attend the 25-nation economic summit of Asian and European leaders.

According to senior officials, Mr. Major will welcome the improving relations between Britain and China, particularly on trade. But he would also raise "problems of confidence". He will tell the Chinese Prime Minister that the United Kingdom and China have a shared interest in making the transition as smooth as possible and in maintaining a stable Hong Kong after June 1997.

He will tell Mr. Li that for Hong Kong to continue to thrive as a trading centre it will have to have the quality of life it has enjoyed until now. He will strongly oppose China's planned abolition of the Legislative Council.

Britain believes that this is the year in which the people of Hong Kong will decide whether to stay. The key test, according to ministers, will be the Chinese choice of the new chief executive for Hong Kong. "If they do not choose someone who has a good reputation locally for integrity, and who is known to put the interest of Hong Kong first, there will be problems."

Mr. Major will hope that his conversation with Mr. Li, and the visa concession, will improve the reception he is likely to receive in Hong Kong. He has been criticised by local politicians over the reluctance to grant Hong Kong residents British passports, and the *South China Morning Post*, the largest English-language newspaper in Hong Kong, has called him "loser of the week".

Mr. Major will use his visit to show strong support for Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor, who has been criticised by China.

After Thailand and Hong Kong, Mr. Major will travel to South Korea, before flying home on Tuesday.



Paul Keating on a helicopter tour of northern Queensland yesterday. He was unhurt when the rotor blades hit trees

Keating campaign flies into trouble

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

PAUL KEATING, the Australian Prime Minister, almost came to grief in a helicopter yesterday while on the campaign trail for this Saturday's election, but emerged smiling and seemingly unconcerned.

The Labor leader was about to land in a rainforest in far northern Queensland when his army helicopter was blown off course and the rotor blades hit some trees. Mr. Keating's survival instincts prompted him to remind accompanying reporters afterwards: "I promised them when I got the leadership there would be thrills and spills and a touch of excitement."

Australia has had plenty of

all three since he came to power after defeating Bob Hawke in a party coup in 1992. But his real influence on the 18 million population began 13 years ago when he was appointed Treasurer. Since then he has guided Australia through some of its most radical economic reforms and, many people say, has been responsible for some of its biggest financial disasters.

Mr. Keating floated the dollar and deregulated the financial markets. But he also deliberately encouraged high interest rates in an effort to cool an overheated economy and created a million unemployed.

"this was the recession we had to have" has haunted him ever since.

He is not one to worry about his political past or popular image. This is the man whose parliamentary incoherence is legendary and whose use of the word "survivor" in describing his opponents is mild compared with the language he adopts in telephone calls to newspaper editors and lobby correspondents who dare to criticise him.

For a man who did not bother to sit his school exams and spent his early adult years as a junior clerk with Sydney County Council, he has done well. His success is not only

down to raw, bully-boy ambition, but also to an ability to mix with the right people early in his political career. They call it "mateship" — egalitarian Australia's equivalent of the old school tie.

Being a Roman Catholic and of Irish descent also helped. Although many accuse Mr. Keating of being part of the "bog Irish mafia", he surprised many people recently by claiming to be inspired by Churchill. "He is the reason I am in public life," he said in an interview. "I used to read about him and I thought 'if that is the business he is in, I would love to be in that business'."

Malan to face more charges

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

GENERAL Magnus Malan, South Africa's former Defence Minister, and 19 co-accused are to face additional charges of conspiracy to murder supporters of the African National Congress and its allies, prosecutors have announced. The trial starts on Monday.

The 20 former apartheid-era security chiefs have already been charged with murder and attempted murder over the 1987 massacre of 13 people at the home of an ANC supporter in Zululand.

Announcing new charges in a notice to defence lawyers, Tim McNally, KwaZulu-Natal's Attorney-General, said the men had also conspired to murder anti-apartheid activists in the province during bloody clashes between Chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha Freedom Party and the ANC's allies between 1985 and 1989.

The original indictment links the men to the establishment of a hit squad of 200 men for Inkatha. The State alleges that the accused "facilitated" a programme of support for Inkatha and were responsible for training and funding.



Malan: conspiracy claim

China tells Taiwan to turn against Lee

By James Pringle in Peking and Our Foreign Staff

PEKING yesterday urged the people of Taiwan to rise up and reject any attempt by its leaders to provoke a permanent split with the Chinese mainland. The call was seen by diplomats as a prelude to possible Chinese military action like the Taiwan Strait.

In front-page commentary in *People's Daily*, the Chinese Communist Party used the 49th anniversary of an abortive uprising in Taiwan against Chiang Kai-shek Nationalists to launch a veiled attack on the island's president, Lee Teng-hui. Peking accuses him of seeking Taiwan's independence while paying lip-service to reunification.

"The people have a responsibility to rise up against and resist those trying to split the motherland under the pretext of 'democratisation'," it said. Taiwan's Defence Ministry says there is no possibility of a 50,000-strong Chinese force invading the island.

Province, lying opposite the island. The latest Chinese criticism comes as Taiwan prepares to hold its first direct presidential elections on March 23. The poll is expected to be won by Mr. Lee.

The diplomats here said the *People's Daily* commentary, coming after last week's celebration of the Chinese new year in China and Taiwan, may signal the opening political salvo of verbal attacks which could lead to a show of force rather than an invasion.

Yesterday's commentary attacked the Taiwanese people for rising up against the Nationalists on February 28, 1947. In Taipei, thousands burnt an effigy of Chiang Kai-shek to mark the anniversary of the massacres that followed the uprising.

The commentary urged Taiwan patriots to "carry forward the spirit of the 28th February 1947 uprising and push for reunification."

India's 400,000 child prostitutes lure sex tours

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA, beginning to rival Thailand as a centre of child prostitution, because of lax law against sexual abuse. The holiday resort of Goa is the main paedophile centre, with Britain's biggest customers after the introduction of direct tourist flights from the United Kingdom. The International Labour Org-

anisation concludes, in a survey of the sex trade, that India has 400,000 child prostitutes, the second-highest number in the world. Thailand has 600,000 and the Philippines 60,000. Sex tourists are attracted to India because prices are lower than in Bangkok or Manila.

"As many as 30,000 street children in Bombay alone face the risk of sexual abuse and contracting AIDS," Jim Lee, a consultant for the Toronto-based Street

Children International, said. Every big Indian city has large numbers of street children, prone to sexual exploitation. About 50,000 Britons visit Goa annually, some for sex. Newspapers in Goa have attacked the British sex tourists. The *Gomantak Times* said in a leading article headlined "Say no to British hooligans" that visitors indulged in drugs and paedophilia. "There are others who indulge in nudism, free sex and rape."

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Princess backs ban on mines

By Leyla Linton

THE Princess of Wales will tonight support an International Red Cross campaign for a global ban on landmines, which kill 800 people a month.

As vice-president of the British Red Cross, the Princess will highlight her support at a celebration to mark the official end of the British Red Cross 125th anniversary Appeal.

Her decision to abandon an apolitical role comes at a time of growing pressure on the Government from aid organisations and the Labour Party to abandon its opposition to a total ban.

The British Government believes that landmines remain a legitimate form of defence and that a total ban would be unrealistic. It has already banned the export of "smart" mines which are programmed to self-destruct, but many critics believe that this does not go far enough.

Governments will meet in Geneva in April to revise the 1980 International Convention which governs the use of landmines. There are an estimated 110 million landmines in 64 countries.

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Publisher's rise from ashes in Phoenix leaves Republican race for White House wide open

Fortune smiles on Forbes in Arizona

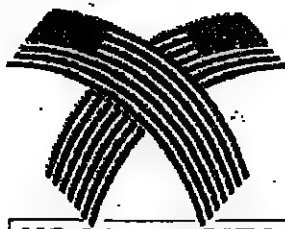
FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE personal fortune lavished on his election trail finally paid dividends yesterday for Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, who rose from the ashes in Phoenix and firmly re-established himself as third man in the race for a Republican White House.

His unexpected victory left Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, and Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator, trailing in the frontiers of Arizona and accelerated Mr Forbes to the head of the delegate table.

The publisher had spent an estimated \$4 million (£2.6 million) on television and radio advertisements in the Copper State, both to attack rivals and promote himself as a free trader and Washington outsider. Under winner-takes-all rules, he won all 39 delegates in the richest yet prize of the primary season.

His triumph makes an already muddled race for the nomination even more so, with Mr Dole still looking weak despite simultaneous victories in North and South Dakota. Mr Buchanan, the former Tennessee Governor, desperately seeking to break his duck in the primaries. It was the day there was no Republican front-runner.



US PRIMARIES

"A week ago, they wrote our obituary," Mr Forbes told supporters in Phoenix. "Tonight, they can perhaps write the obituary of conventional political punditry."

Dismissing the "hunker in the bunker" protectionism of Mr Buchanan, he declared: "We believe deeply that America has the potential for the greatest economic boom and spiritual renewal in our history. We see an America that is self-confident, dynamic... not fearful of the future."

Mr Forbes had long spoken of his "4-3-2-1" strategy of finishing progressively better in towns, New Hampshire, Delaware and Arizona, and this was vindicated by the result in Phoenix. But he still faces a tough hurdle among the committed Christian vote in South Carolina and has little hope of capitalising on his success before the New York contest early next month. His television efforts in Arizona began last September and ended with two documentaries in the final days when he also spent \$50,000 on telephone canvassing.



Steve Forbes celebrates his victory in Arizona yesterday with his three daughters. The multimillionaire, who had been written off by the US press, remains a key contender.

Although Mr Buchanan finished third in Arizona, he also remained in the top three in the Dakotas — states where his anti-trade message was expected to play badly — and still carries momentum into the South.

The Republican establishment, still very concerned about Mr Buchanan's success, had hoped to see numbers dwindle, leaving a straight duel between Mr Dole and Mr Buchanan. Poor showings by

Mr Alexander, who had assumed the role of moderate Washington outsider, suggested this might have happened. But the Forbes victory has considerably altered the primary landscape, ensuring that the publisher remains a contender in the critical weeks

ahead, divides the moderate wing of the party and leaves Mr Buchanan as a considerable force for the Southern primaries ahead.

While Mr Buchanan and Mr Dole painted the Arizona result as a victory for money over message, the Forbes camp said their candidate's offer of a "shining city on a hill" had started to trump the darker and more pessimistic image of a "Fortress America" portrayed by Mr Buchanan.

"We feel that Steve is on a roll," Gordon Hightower, the former senator and vice chairman of the Forbes campaign, said. "The campaign is coming back. Bob's support is wide but it's not deep. I think he and Alexander are going to sail into heavier weather so it's going to come down ultimately to a race between Pat Buchanan and Steve Forbes."

Mr Dole, who had left Arizona early, concentrated

his efforts to win both North and South Dakota with Mr Forbes and Mr Buchanan coming in behind him in both states. Although the first victories for Mr Dole since Iowa, the two northern states represented little in terms of either delegates or momentum. Unlike Mr Forbes, who can spend his personal fortune at will, and Mr Buchanan, who has been frugal in the early primaries, Mr Dole may face financial difficulties before the California primary on March 26. He is fast approaching a limit on spending.

Among those who voted in Arizona, polls revealed that

Mr Forbes had successfully appealed to those with family incomes above \$100,000, undecided voters, and those who voted for Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire, in 1992.

His steady drum beat for a flat tax to replace the standard income tax had resonated among many in its high-technology state. He also appeared to be a protest candidate of sorts who more than a third of independents voted for Mr Forbes.

Support for Mr Buchanan was similar to that seen in earlier primaries. He won over the less educated and those who felt strong about abortion and immigration. But his showing was not entirely positive. More than half of the electorate in Arizona, and similar numbers in North and South Dakota, felt it was too expensive a candidate.

	Arizona	N. Dakota	S. Dakota
Forbes	34	20	13
Dole	30	42	46
Buchanan	27	18	29
Alexander	7	6	9
Keyes	0.8	3	3
Lugar	0.6	1	0
Taylor	0	0	0

% vote. Source, Reuters



Last chance for Dole in booming state where he has no excuses

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

HERE in South Carolina, the state where the first shots of the American Civil War were fired, Robert Dole has his best, and perhaps last, chance to end the civil war dividing his Republican Party.

If the 72-year-old Senate majority leader wins this Saturday's South Carolina primary, he will recapture his front-runner status and gain priceless momentum for six more big Southern primaries over the next ten days. Conversely, defeat would deal his campaign a near-

fatal blow. "This is the big one," Mr Dole told a boisterous rally on the USS Yorktown, a mothballed aircraft carrier in Charleston harbour.

The contest has been dubbed the "Dole New Hampshire" and Mr Dole can have no excuses here. He has South Carolina's Governor, David Beasley, its popular former Governor, Carroll Campbell, and its 92-year-old senator, Strom Thurmond, pulling out every stop to help him. He organised and began advertising in the Palmetto State — so named for its palm trees — months before his rivals, and here, unlike in Arizona and New Hamp-

shire, Steve Forbes has not hammered him with millions of dollars worth of negative advertisements. But, above all, this should be the easiest state for Mr Dole to demolish. Pat Buchanan's protectionist and isolationist platform.

Mr Buchanan marched into South Carolina yesterday and headed straight to a rally held in a tent outside a huge derelict textile mill in the heart of Clearwater, a rundown little town on the Georgia border.

The textile industry was until recently the bedrock of South Carolina's economy, devouring Dixie's cotton fields, but its workforce has shrunk by a third over the past decade and abandoned redbrick mills now litter the state. Mr Buchanan blames that decline not on new technology but on cheap foreign competition and Washington politicians who have betrayed the American worker.

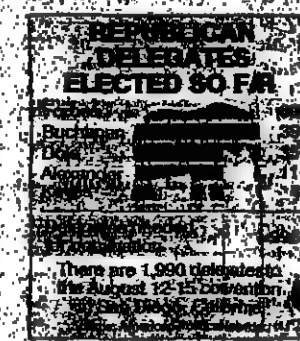
"The people of Middle America have found a voice and representative in Pat Buchanan," he roared, and urged the predominantly Democratic crowd temporarily to register as Republicans and vote for him in Saturday's primary. Behind him, Denis Thomas, 45, a member of the

Electors' Union, hoisted a giant homemade banner reading: "They are calling him a protectionist for seeking to protect American jobs. They should campaign in Japan and Mexico."

By contrast, Mr Dole headed for Greenville, a booming city of sparkling new glass towers in the state's southwestern corner. It is a spectacular advertisement for the benefits of global free trade and investment. He was touring the gleaming BMW plant but could have made his point equally well by visiting the American headquarters of Fuji, Michelin, Bie, Hitachi, Bosch or the

250 other foreign firms attracted over the past 15 years by Greenville's aggressive marketing.

"This is the New South," not Mr Buchanan's Old South. These newcomers have more than offset the job losses in the textile industry and pay far better. Unemployment in the Greenville area is 2.7 per cent and in the state as a whole, a relatively low 5.4 per cent. Foreign investment in South Carolina reached a record \$1.8 billion (£1.2 billion) last year and American subsidiaries of foreign companies now employ nearly 10 per cent of the state's workforce.



Bishop denies ordination of gay priest was heresy

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A RETIRED bishop has been brought to trial for heresy by the Anglican Church in America to try to settle a doctrinal split over the ordination of practising homosexuals.

Walter Righter, 72, formerly Bishop of Iowa, was accused of violating the doctrine of the US Episcopal Church by ordaining Barry Stoppel as a deacon in 1990. Now a priest in New Jersey, Mr Stoppel watched the proceedings with his male companion of the past ten years.

Bishop Righter said his sole defence was that the Church had no doctrinal case against him. "I ordained a qualified man who happens to be gay," he said outside the hearing at St John's Cathedral in Wilmington, Delaware.

He was challenged as a heretic by ten conservative bishops who want to force the Episcopal Church to make a clear statement on the ordaining of active homosexuals. The

case is being watched by other American denominations at odds over the issue. The prosecution advocate, Hugo Blankenship, told a judicial panel of nine bishops that Bishop Righter disobeyed a resolution passed by the Church's general convention nearly 20 years ago saying that celibate homosexuals



Bishop Righter: under fire from conservatives

could be ordained but not practising homosexuals. The Church's ruling House of Bishops also stated that ordination of non-celibate homosexuals was inadmissible. Neither statement is doctrine, but both define what the Church holds to be established belief. Bishop Righter's lawyer, Michael Rehill, a lay diocesan official who normally sits as a traffic court judge, insisted there was no doctrine in the Scriptures, the Nicene Creed or the Book of Common Prayer to prohibit the ordination of non-celibate homosexuals.

The two sides clashed over attitudes to sexual morality. The prosecution warned of anarchy and heresy if God-given, traditional standards were jettisoned. The defence responded that Anglican traditions epitomise diversity. The panel retired to deliberate privately yesterday and is expected to rule in a few days.

Cuba seeks emergency UN session

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

DENOUNCING the Security Council as an American tool, Cuba called for a special meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to hear its explanation of the shooting down of two light aircraft.

Roberto Robaina González, the Cuban Foreign Minister, met non-aligned nations in an effort to arrange an emergency session of the 185-nation Assembly. Señor Robaina accused Madeleine Albright, Washington's often blunt UN Ambassador, of using unparliamentary language when she made public the radio communications of the Cuban fighter pilots. Appalled by the pilots' glee at hitting their target, Mrs Albright said: "Frankly, this is not cojones [balls]. This is cowardice." Señor Robaina responded: "We have always had plenty of the first and we have never suffered from the latter."

Exiles' plan for return flight to Cuba alarms Washington

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

DEFIANT Cuban exile groups here have announced plans to return to the scene of last weekend's shooting down of two civilian planes by Cuban Air Force MiGs, to place a wreath in memory of the four men who died.

Alarmed American officials immediately criticised the proposed wreath ceremony, which was scheduled for this Saturday, but hesitated over whether the Clinton Administration would, should, or even could prevent it.

"This community deserves a decent funeral," insists José Basulto, founder of Brothers to the Rescue, the group of volunteer exile pilots of which the dead men were members. He added that it would be "a shameful act of cowardice" if Washington tried to ban the ceremony.

He (Basulto) seems to be a slow learner," Kenneth Bacon, a Pentagon spokesman, said. Despite an extensive search by

the US Navy and Coast Guard, which was called off on Tuesday, no bodies have been recovered. Witnesses on board a passing cruise ship said that was not surprising since the two planes were "blown to pieces" by the air-to-air missiles.

American officials said the proposed wreath ceremony was under discussion at the highest levels. Despite being aware of the dangers involved, the Administration is wary of upsetting the Cuban-American community in an election year, especially since the Florida primary is less than two weeks away.

Analysts say returning to the scene would be foolhardy, given the tension between Washington and Havana. Basulto has a deluded notion of martyrdom. This has to be stopped before it escalates any further," said Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, a security ex-

pert at the University of Georgia, who visited Cuba last month.

"Although America has presented proof that the planes were shot down, the Cubans will have a hard time accepting that," he said. "The incident occurred inside Cuban airspace. Havana has not produced any proof, other than inverted testimony from the MIG pilot involved in the attack."

Mr Basulto says Saturday's ceremony should not be viewed as a provocation aimed at the Cuban authorities. "These are international waters," he said. "It is our right to be there."

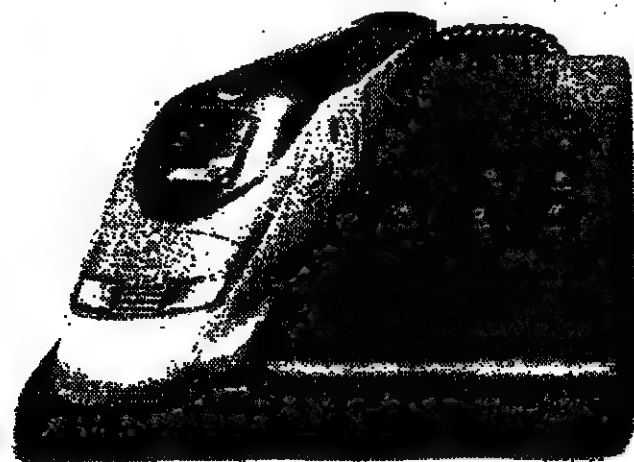
The MIG attack has sent shockwaves through Miami's Cuban-American community. Brothers to the Rescue pilots are considered local heroes for their search-and-rescue missions over the Florida Straits. In 1,800 missions since they

began flying in 1991, they claim to have saved thousands of Cuban refugees.

The shooting down of their planes has boosted tensions in the community, which have been at a fever pitch since the US military intervention in the Gulf War.

Moderate Cubans who support dialogue have been left shaken and confused by the incident because it showed them that despite their hopes to the contrary, the Cuban Government does not appear interested in a peaceful transition to democracy. In recent years, a younger generation of Cuban Americans has begun to reject calls for US military intervention, the position taken for decades by older leaders in the community, who left Cuba in the 1960s.

US newspaper, page 18
A telling tale, page 40



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هكمان النحل

Saddam kills his grandchildren to end family threat

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALL seven of President Saddam Hussein's grandchildren may have been butchered in an attempt to wipe out any future threat to his Baghdad regime, Iraqi opposition sources claimed yesterday.

The four children of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, and the three children of his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamel, both of whom defected to Jordan in August, are said to have been killed in an act of biblical vengeance.

The Iraqi authorities earlier claimed that members of the al-Majid family shot the two defectors in order to "wipe out the shame" they had caused the clan by defecting to Jordan, and calling for the overthrow of Saddam's regime.

US intelligence sources monitoring the Gulf region, however, reported that the killing within the al-Majid clan was far from over. Lt Commander Kenneth

Katzman, a former Central Intelligence Agency analyst who monitors developments in the Gulf for the Congressional Research Service, said that the purge appeared to be continuing among family members.

This could shake up the balance of power in Saddam's extended family, possibly leading to bloodshed in "other layers of the regime outside the immediate family," he added.

Iraqi opposition forces had been spreading rumours of mounting strife inside the country, including clashes between government forces and rebel groups. Saddam's foes could not, however, be regarded as a credible source on such matters, added Commander Katzman.

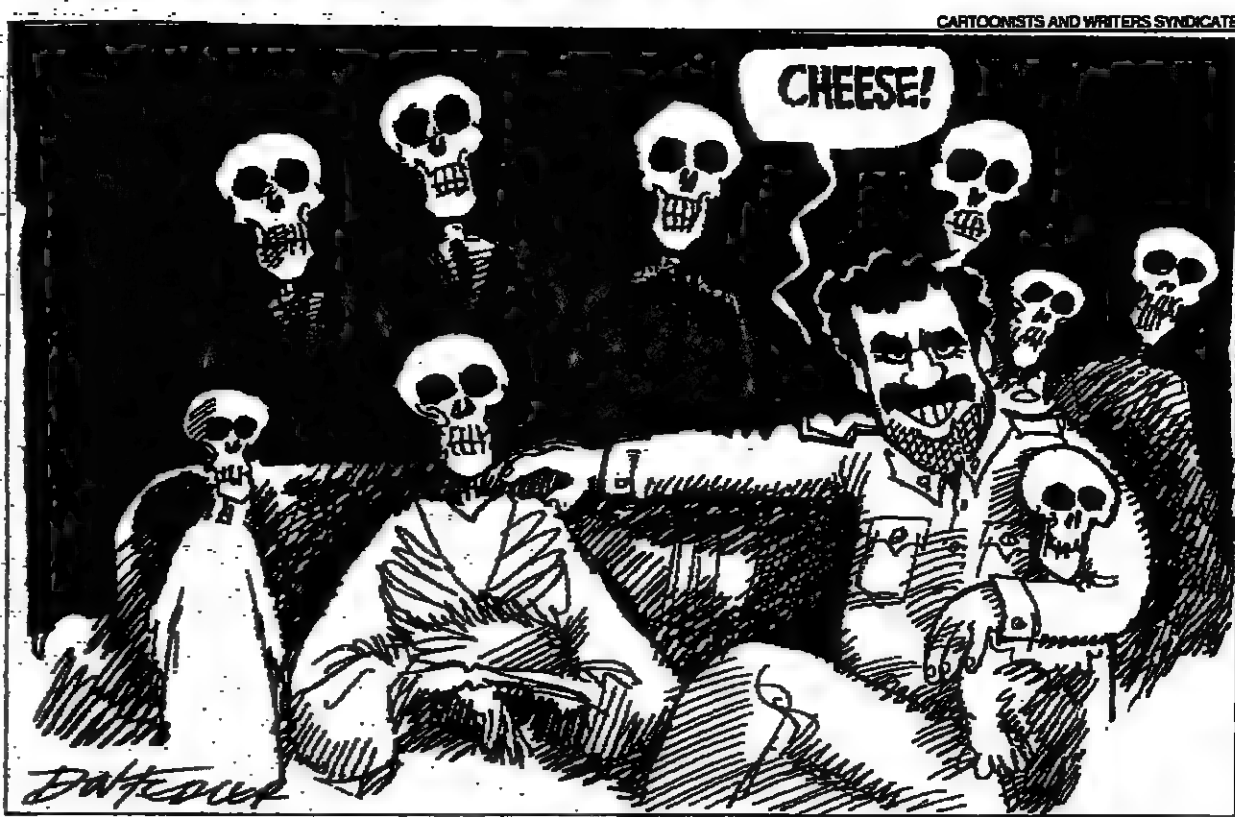
General Hussein Kamel and his brother, both sons-in-law of Saddam Hussein, returned to Baghdad last Tuesday, expecting to be par-

doned after spending six months in Jordan. By Friday morning, however, they were divorced from their wives — both of them daughters of Saddam — and murdered that afternoon.

An official working with the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella group representing a variety of opposition groups, said that the defectors were killed immediately because Saddam feared that they had CIA backing to overthrow his regime.

In a blood-curdling oath of loyalty to Saddam Hussein published in Baghdad, the remaining relatives of the murdered Iraqi defectors vowed to "cut off the heads" of any more traitors who dared to defy his rule.

The statement added: "We swear before the symbol of Iraq and our fighter Saddam Hussein that our swords will remain brandished to cut off the heads of those who dare to



A picture from the new family album of Saddam Hussein — a view of Fedler in *The Star*, Johannesburg

harm him." It was the "mission" of the remaining members of the al-Majid family "to cut off the evil branch of the family," the statement added.

Dr Ahmad Chalabi, the president of the Iraqi National Congress, insisted that the defectors have caused "irreparable damage to Saddam's

regime by revealing the "awful in-fighting amongst Saddam's inner clique," and by destroying Iraq's special relationship with Jordan.

In addition, information on Iraq's military procurement programmes, passed on to the United Nations by the two defectors, showed that

Saddam still has no intention of complying with the UN resolutions calling for an end to Iraq's attempts to build weapons of mass destruction, thereby "infinitely delaying" Saddam's dream of ending UN sanctions against Iraq.

The defectors were a sign that "Saddam Hussein's re-

gime is on the brink of collapse," Dr Chalabi said.

The current round of talks between Iraq and the UN on the sale of \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) of oil over the next six months to finance purchases of food and medical supplies, will bring little benefit to Baghdad, he added.

'Jackal' aide denies bombing

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A MAN regarded as the adjutant of Carlos the Jackal went on trial in Berlin yesterday accused of killing and bombing on his behalf.

Johannes Weinrich, 48, described by police as Germany's "senior and most successful terrorist", swaggered into the fortified courtroom looking like a self-assured businessman in a smart tweed jacket and half-moon spectacles.

He is accused of smuggling explosives into West Berlin — with the passive assistance of the East German secret police — to blow up the French cultural institute in 1983. The huge blast killed one person and injured 22 others.

Herr Weinrich is fighting the accusations, knowing more terrorist-related charges will follow if the prosecution is successful.

The trial is likely to pin down some of the myths surrounding Carlos, the alias of Ilich Ramirez Sanchez. Extradited from Sudan in 1994, he is awaiting trial in France.

Angry islanders urge Rifkind to sack Governor

BY MICHAEL BINKIN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

OUTRAGED ministers from Britain's tiny Caribbean possession of Turks and Caicos Islands have written to Malcolm Rifkind demanding that the Foreign Secretary sack the Governor because they say he is an arrogant autocrat.

Members of the legislative assembly are furious that Martin Bourke, the career diplomat who has been Governor of the islands for the past two years, wrote a strongly critical article in a recent issue of the magazine *Offshore Finances*, in which he suggested that crime was rising, the police were corrupt, and the island had become a haven for drug traffickers.

"We've had difficulties in the past. Allegations against the police ranged from incompetence, sloth, corruption, even discrimination against islanders. The crime rate has gone up by 40 per cent in the last three years," wrote Mr Bourke, who is responsible for law and order. He said one policeman was under arrest allegedly for robbing his residence when he was meant to be guarding it.

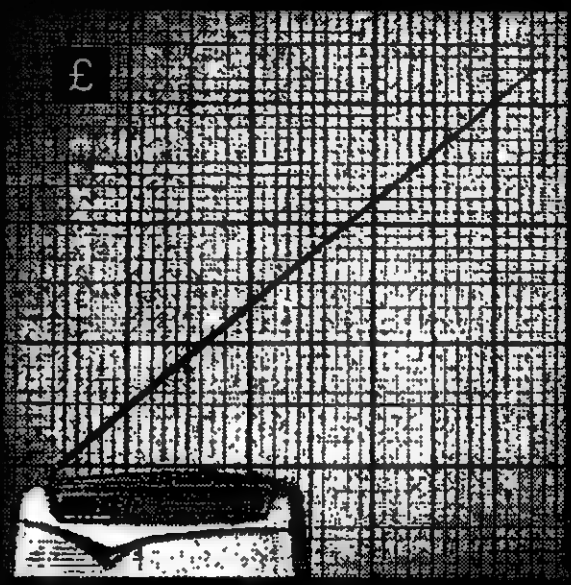
The islanders, who total only 15,000, are furious at what they regard as an insensitive slight, and are also angry at another article, Mr

Bourke wrote for *Business Age*. They wrote to him saying he had shown "astounding disrespect" and said they had watched with "increasing dismay" while he had exercised his powers in total disregard of the feelings of the people whom he had been charged to govern.

Mr Bourke, who has held previous appointments in Brussels, Singapore and Johannesburg, had no comment yesterday, and his office referred inquiries to London. The Foreign Office confirmed that it had seen the protest, and was now seeking comment from Mr Bourke.

The islands have been a colony for more than 230 years, and now are one of the last 16 remaining overseas possessions that are classified as dependent territories. The Turks and Caicos have internal self-government with six elected ministers.

Tourism has increased rapidly in recent years, with 79,000 people last year visiting the islands north of Haiti. However, some of the Governor's remarks appear well-founded: three ministers were jailed in 1985 for drug smuggling and last week a smuggling case fell apart because police bungled procedures.



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On the front line with the young medics

DR SEAN MOLLOY

One thing I didn't take into account was that I would be so tired. You never really get used to it. When you do a weekend on-call you can be up for 60 hours at a time, and you do feel absolutely shattered. On average, I do 87 hours per week, but the most was 130 — over Christmas week. There are times when you moan a bit about having a tough weekend, but I do think you need the hours to get enough experience to be competent.

I don't have a problem with long hours — I've been very well covered, because I have a senior house officer, a registrar, a senior registrar and a consultant, and they've been very supportive. Without that it would have been difficult, but I've enjoyed it immensely.

Over time, you do become chronically tired. Everybody can deal with one night, but over six months it becomes so deep that you fall asleep without any indication. On one occasion I went out for a meal with a friend, who actually left me propped up against a partition in a Chinese restaurant — left me, paid the bill and went home. I've also fallen asleep in the car on the way home. One of the consultants said that he falls asleep when he is stopped at traffic lights.

I don't think you ever get dangerously tired because your adrenaline does flow when something important happens. I still get a rush every time — I think it's something that you can actually get addicted to, and that's what you enjoy about being here. Dealing with daily problems, the most important thing is for your temper to be stable.

The most exciting thing I've done so far was my first appendicectomy. You can assist in theatre an awful lot, but the responsibility when you are actually doing the operation yourself is fantastic. I want to be a surgeon in the end, so doing my first operation was unbelievable — I called my father afterwards, at about 3.30 in the morning, to tell him.

I also get a great kick out of dealing with patients, and they can

Six months ago, two junior doctors told *The Times* of their hopes and ambitions as they started work at St George's Hospital, Tooting. Today, they reveal how far the reality of the NHS has lived up to their dreams



Exhilarated: Dr Sean Molloy

be very entertaining. People have done so much with their lives, and you learn a lot from them. If you have patients who are terminally ill, they have a great serenity towards the end, and you can learn from that as well.

The best thing is the job satisfaction — it couldn't be the money. I cannot imagine the satisfaction you get from medicine can be equalled by any other profession. My non-medical friends are fascinated by what I do and they hear my enthusiasm and envy it. They may be earning three times as much as me, but they don't get up in the morning looking forward to going to work, and I do.

"You expect, and accept, that you're never going to get enough free time. Work has affected my social life dramatically. What you do is swap your social life outside for a social life inside — you find that you become an awful lot closer to your workmates in the hospital, and I've had to make a special effort to keep up with friends outside. I'd also like to be able to play more sport — I used to be an international tennis player, but I haven't had a game in six months. I would hate to lose something which I have played all my life."

"I was a trained chiropractor before I went into medicine, and had my own clinic. I still do a bit of work on free weekends, though that's had to drop off a lot. I think there is an advantage in going into medicine as a mature student — most people come straight from school, and I know some people here who are qualified, but don't particularly want to go on with medicine. But they are not qualified for anything else, and feel trapped. Having already done four years of a medically-orientated course, I knew for sure that I wanted to go through with it. In the end I'd like to do spinal surgery, using my chiropractic to complement it."

I would still make the same decisions all over again. The only thing I would say is that there should be greater rewards for doctors and nurses who work long hours. But medicine is a vocation, and I wouldn't change it."

DR ANN SCOTT-RUSSELL

The mundaneness of much of it is different from how I had imagined it. I didn't think there would be quite so much paperwork and routine, and a lot of that is very boring. Being a doctor sounds much more glamorous.

"I have become much more capable in situations which previously terrified me. I was mostly scared by heart attacks, or epileptic fits and asthma attacks. I wasn't completely sure of what to do — you learn it in theory, but it seems very different in practice. A lot of common things that occur in



Sometimes bored, occasionally terrified — but Dr Ann Scott-Russell says: "I can't think of anything else I would rather do"

casualty or on the wards don't frighten me any more. "Sometimes I become frustrated by the red tape when I would much rather spend the time talking to the patients and treating them. You don't realise how many forms you have to fill out."

The rota here is a one-in-five, which means every fifth day you are working through the night. You work one-in-five weekends as well, from Saturday morning to Monday evening. Our hourly pay is OK, but you get paid about half that for overtime, which is anything after 5pm, weekends, and Bank Holidays. On Christmas Day it felt particularly poor — dealing with an emergency at 2am when all you're worth is just over £3 an hour.

"St George's is very much in debt. You notice it in simple things, like not having plaster in Casualty, or the right kind of swabs. All the equipment is the cheapest possible. In some places they have things like special blood-gas sy-

ringes, whereas we have to make up our own. There is also a shortage of nurses. The bed status is horrendous. There are never enough."

"I think the fundamentally important thing is that you're here to help the patients. A lot of people are more competitive, and perhaps see their patients academically or as a means to get on, but I very much like getting to know them if I can. The best thing is talking to them in Casualty and piecing together all the information to make a diagnosis and formulate a treatment. It is like a jigsaw puzzle, and it is immensely satisfying to see the patient's recovery."

"My scariest case was when I was called to see a patient in the middle of the night. He was a young chap, probably in his thirties, gasping for breath. I was the only

There is an attitude that you have to be heroic

doctor there when he arrived. I'd only just started work, and I couldn't believe it that he had done that on me. I sent out a crash call, and tried to resuscitate him with cardiac massage."

"It seemed like hours before anyone got there, and I was scared out of my wits. When the team arrived they tried to resuscitate him, but he died. I felt guilty — I thought, 'this is my fault'. It was a real feeling of desolation. I had to tell his relatives in the morning, who were devastated, and I felt completely inadequate."

"Lack of sleep is very hard. It is difficult to remain calm, in control, and not irritable with four hours' sleep when you are getting hassled continuously. Because everyone else is in the same boat, there is no one to sympathise."

"There is this attitude that you have to be quite heroic about it all. You just have to get on with it, and in the end you almost forget about it until some minor incident sets you off in floods of tears."

"I don't want medicine to completely take over my life, so I try to go out when I'm not working, at the expense of having time to myself. I've got a huge pile of ironing which I never have time to do, and I never watch television or cook for myself. I'm going out with a non-medical friend, fortunately he is very understanding."

"Even knowing what it is like, I can't think of anything else I would rather do. I might get fed up with it all in a few years, but at the moment I'm hooked. I don't have kids, or a mortgage, or anything else to occupy me apart from friends and boyfriend."

"Despite everything, medicine does live up to my dream."

Interview: ANNA ROCKALL

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THE SUNDAY TIMES AS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Relax, don't let catching the train give you cardiac strain

Advice from the heart

LAST weekend there were reports of another elderly householder who had a fatal heart attack while confronting a burglar. Whether these deaths are the result of chance, unaccustomed violent exercise or extreme emotion is discussed by Dr M.C. Petch, consultant cardiologist at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, in this week's *British Medical Journal*.

Another cardiologist, who treated Airey Neave after he had a coronary thrombosis while still a comparatively young man and just starting his ministerial career, had no doubts. When Mr Neave had recovered he was relegated to the back benches until promoted by Margaret Thatcher. He devoted much



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttard

of his parliamentary time to the Select Committee on Science and Technology, which involved extensive travel.

Mr Neave's cardiologist warned him never to combine sudden violent exercise with emotion, and in particular to avoid hurrying — to the theatre, an appointment or for a train or flight.

The actual risk of having a coronary as the result of sudden exercise is not great

but the *BMJ* quotes statistics from a survey which shows that 14.1 per cent of the cases investigated had recently undertaken vigorous physical exercise, and 18.4 per cent of the patients reported an emotional upset.

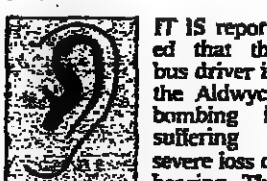
An American study has suggested that a person is six times more likely to have a coronary thrombosis after exercise, even if it was no more vigorous than jogging, swimming, pushing a law-

mower, heavy gardening or shovelling snow. The good news is that although the relative risk goes up, the actual chance of a previously healthy middle-aged man having his first heart attack when undertaking any of these strenuous activities is very small indeed.

Both German and British researchers have also found an increased rate of heart attacks after psychological stress, but it is very hard to define what constitutes stress and significant emotional upset.

In Dr Petch's opinion, legal claims based on direct trauma to the heart should be settled, but claims based on emotional stress are unlikely to succeed.

Ear damage after an explosion



IT IS reported that the bus driver in the Aldwych bombing is suffering a severe loss of hearing. The effect of blast on hearing was studied in detail when the Abercrom restaurant in Belfast was bombed.

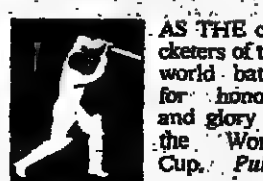
Mr Malcolm Keene, consultant ear, nose and throat surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, found that

hearing loss after an explosion could result either from rupture of the eardrum or damage to the cochlea, part of the inner ear.

If there is a small rupture in the drum, surgeons will usually wait to see whether it heals naturally. Larger ruptures will need repair with fibrous tissue from the muscle behind the ear.

Damage to the cochlea is usually irreparable, and results in a sensor-neural deafness. Although this usually follows prolonged exposure to noise, even a single visit to a noisy disco, can be enough.

Sex doesn't affect athletes' fitness



AS THE cricketers of the world battle for honour and glory in the World Cup, *Pulse* magazine and the *Journal of Medical Fitness* have an account of research by American physiologists into the vexed question of whether sex before a match undermines athletic prowess.

The US scientists found

that athletes' levels of physical fitness were not altered by having sex during the 12 hours before they were tested on a treadmill.

Although interesting and cheering — news for the cricketers, the research fails to consider other factors which are important on a playing field. There is no account of the effects of recent sex on competitive spirit and aggression, necessary qualities which together make up the will to win.

Perhaps our cricketers should continue to go to bed with nothing more exciting than a good book.

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Julia Llewellyn Smith reports on the philandering Maestro of Modena

A family problem for the Pavarottis

The magnificent ochre villa on the outskirts of Modena is silent. Luciano Pavarotti is in Barbados: Adua, his wife of 30 years, is in the Canary Islands.

Their absence from their home town has not gone unnoticed. Indeed, the talk is of nothing else, and the newsstands have sold out of copies of *Chi*, the gossip magazine which featured photographs of the Maestro frolicking in the Caribbean last week with Nicoletta Mantovani, his 26-year-old PA.

La Gazzetta di Modena's headline reads: "Luciano, Go Home... Adua Asks her Husband to Think Again and to Finish his Affair with Nicoletta".

Pavarotti's affair with Nicoletta has been an open secret in the opera world for more than two years. It is not his first extramarital skirmish, but it is certainly the most public — an embarrassment which has upset not only his

'He is at the point of no return — I hope he is happy'

wife, but also his parents, Fernando, 83, and Adele, 80. Married for 61 years, they are still quite clearly in love, and are obviously saddened by the humiliation their son is causing their daughter-in-law. "Adua is a very good person, she has known Luciano since they were at school," says his

father. Adua, 59, has denied rumours of a divorce on numerous occasions. This time, however, she has been pushed into issuing an ultimatum.

The warning came in two stages. First Adua changed the nameplate on the front gate of their home to her maiden name, Veroni.

Then, on Tuesday, in an open letter to the press, she sent the philandering Pavarotti a clear and poignant message. He had, she said, been courted by many women over the years, but had always dealt with their approaches wisely. "This time, however, perhaps because of age and the type of aggression he has faced, he has behaved in a way which has brought him to the point of no return and to choices which I hope will make him happy."

She continues: "I think that after the initial euphoria, this could lead him to a dangerous and sad situation."

She reminds her husband of 35 years that it was she who helped to build his career. Without her, she predicts, he will face a life of loneliness. He partly owes his huge success to his well-tested ties: "He will lose all this and will have to build something new... he will have to be sure that this is the truth."

A visit to Modena, near Bologna, shows how solid these ties are. The Maestro, as his staff all call him, has

created an idyllic set-up for his adored family and they, in return, provide a much-needed centre in a dizzying round of non-stop travelling.

All his immediate family live in different wings of his three-storey villa with frescoed ceilings, a few streets from the apartment where he grew up. As well as providing a home for his parents, it is also a base for his three daughters, Lorenza, 33, who runs a boutique in the city centre, and Cristina, 31, and Giuliana, 28, who are still students.

Although Pavarotti travels for ten months of the year, it is to Modena that he returns for privacy and to indulge his twin passions of horse-riding and eating. He even has a site — Europa 92 — in Modena which caters to both, and it is here that his father Fernando, a handsome, slimmer version of his son, frequently comes with his wife to eat in the restaurant.

Fernando, who still plays bowls every day, is also known

for his beautiful voice. As we talk he breaks frequently into song. "I would have liked to have been a singer, but I didn't dare," he says. "I would have had stage fright and I had the responsibility of bringing up two young children. Luciano was always singing, when he was five

he would sing *La Donna è Mobile* every day in the courtyard and our female neighbours would throw sweets at him. When Luciano said he wanted to be a singer, I was pleased but worried for him. I warned him of the difficulties."

"I had faith," interrupts his wife. "I was sure he would make it, because when he sings he sings with such soul."

The couple speak proudly of how they have travelled the world with their son. Fernando has even sung on stage with him, at the Met in New York. But mention Nicoletta's name and their smiles disappear. She is his PA and is very nice, they say.

Adua, however, is spoken of warmly. Born in Modena, she met Pavarotti at a party when they were both teenagers, and the bond between her and his parents is decades deep. For many years she ran Stage Door Management, the singers' agency based in Modena which represents some of the finest names in opera. Today, her involvement is severed, distancing her still further from her husband's world.

Friends in the opera world say Adua is a tough and remarkable woman. Their attitude to the affair, however, is relaxed. "These things happen all the time in our profession," says a director of a leading opera company.

This is, after all, not the first time that Pavarotti has been led astray. In 1979, he took



Fernando and Adele Pavarotti at their son's restaurant. Mention Nicoletta's name and their smiles disappear

Madelyn Renee, a young and glamorous secretary-cum-singer, with him on tour and in the 1980s she appeared in many recitals and concerts with him. More recently, he was linked with the Italian-American model Lucia DeBri-lli.

The verdict is that this is a

mid-life crisis which has got out of hand. Many of the Maestro's friends are unimpressed by Nicoletta; she is dull, they point out, and Adua would have continued to have turned a blind eye if the affair had only been conducted more discreetly.

A divorce, certainly, would

have a devastating effect on the singer's close-knit community. While Pavarotti has many years of singing left, his health is questionable. He has been obese since his twenties and mobility is increasingly difficult.

He has no plans to retire but this may be forced upon him.

And, in his wife's words: "When the sunset comes, the sense of limitation and loneliness which his successful people especially, has to be supported by old, well-rooted, tested relationships." If Pavarotti does not heed such advice, he may be making the greatest mistake of his career.

INTERVIEW

The squalid dossiers that riled a lawyer

The dossiers were always the same. Pathetic little boxes of private eyes' reports, pictures of husbands' cars parked outside mistresses' front doors, and grubby black and white photographs of clothing strewn across a double bed.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern used to work rapidly and distastefully through these epitaphs to marriages long dead. Twelve every Saturday morning, sometimes 15. At ten guineas a cast, the pay was sufficient to feed his young family, and the view of a very junior barrister was scarcely relevant.

But the notion of divorce pinned on one person's guilt enraged him. "I used to look at those pictures on my desk and think what a pointless, crazy system. Yet I didn't want to demolish it without putting something in its place. And in those days I never expected to be able to change the law."

Forty years have passed, and today the Lord Chancellor will take his place in the House of Lords for possibly the most crucial vote in his brilliant career. His future, his reputation yet may hang on whether a dangerously large group of rebellious peers decides to sabotage his long-cherished plan for no-fault divorce, but his concern is not for himself.

"I'm concerned about presenting the thing to the best of my ability, and about not provoking unnecessary troubles with my colleagues, because that is the last thing I would seek to do."

Had one stumbled across Lord Mackay a year ago, it is unlikely that he would have forecast the nightmare that his Family Law Bill has become. A seemingly uncontentious piece of legislation, it trundled through all the appropriate stages before encountering, some months ago, the first stage-managed fits of wrath from the moral majority, egged on by the *Daily Mail*.

So ill-founded were some of the criticisms that a number of the paper's own journalists distanced themselves from the campaign. The Lord Chancellor, meanwhile, proceeded unshaken. To him the two central planks — the no-fault provision and the 12-month waiting time — seemed to provide the best solution for estranged couples and their children. To his critics, led by Baroness Young, they were anathema.

By tonight Lord Mackay should know whether his Bill will go back to the Commons with its main proposals intact or in holes. He is, in the circumstances, remarkably calm.

The longest-serving Lord Chancellor and arguably the most reforming and the most intelligent, he is — at a cursory

glance — an unlikely crusader for divorce reform. He is deeply religious, a strict Sabbatharian, and happily married for the past 37 years to Elizabeth, his second cousin and a former nurse. It is rather odd to find yourself sitting in his office, next to a row of portraits of him with his good friend, the Queen, discussing postnatal depression and working parents.

"I've seen these problems at first hand. And there are lessons in all this for me too. I've had to concentrate on my relationship with my wife."

The Bill apart, his workload is heavy. Yesterday, on the eve of the Lords vote, he introduced his regulations to restrict legal aid for the wealthy. But, particularly in the minefield of divorce, Lord Mackay has never been one for the easy ride. And he has not lost his urge to decimate the opposition. On those matters he considers vital, he will not bend.

"I had not expected to be Lord Chancellor. Since I have been given that responsibility, it is right for me to bring this philosophy to bear on one of the most important issues in the country." He is not, therefore, surprised that the opposition in the Lords should be so vehement?

"I'd like to use the word 'discussion', not opposition. I admire Lady Young greatly. But I ask myself: does this fault idea contribute to preventing marriage breakdown? The answer is no."

"The current law sends a really strange message. If you're guilty of adultery you can remedy quickly, whereas if you've just drifted apart, you can wait five years. Should the law reward fault?"

Although circumstances have frequently proved him wrong, he is hopeful. But he knows that today's verdict rests on a knife edge.

Little, superficially, troubles the Lord Chancellor, for he is the calmest of men, although he recalls the mixed emotions of seeing his own daughter married.

"She was so young — only 21 — and although she knew exactly what she was doing, I still had this sense that I was losing her." He remembers both his sorrow and his happiness for her, and contrasts those feelings, consciously or not, with his first experiences of failed marriages — with the white faces of the petitioners who faced him every Saturday morning, wishing only to be parted forever and having instead to present their sad little boxes of proof.

It has taken Lord Mackay four decades to produce a better package. He does not intend to see it fail.

MARY RIDDELL



SAVE HOBDAY
DROP NAUGHTIE

Life's too short to wait for a Naughtie question

IF SOMEONE has to be tossed overboard from Radio 4's *Today* programme to ensure a safe berth for the veteran Peter Hobday, then sorry, but surely it must be James Naughtie.

Face it, who has time for Mr Naughtie first thing in the morning? Sure, he's a darling chap. Chirpy. Sing-song. Aberdeen burr. On the ball, well-informed, courteous. No, not courteous. Too courteous. That's the trouble.

The time-delay mechanism of his questions means that he is the

With the Save Peter Hobday Campaign gathering pace, Joe Joseph says it is time for James Naughtie to step aside

only Radio 4 interviewer in danger of being interrupted by one of his own guests chipping in with "I'm sorry, I really must cut you short there".

What happened to the breezy question, the whimsy, and news of Mr Hobday's camellia? Mr Naughtie, an opera buff, may be an expert on *La Dame aux camellias* in *La traviata*, but

how is Mr Hobday's famous camellia faring? Its progress serves as a sort of *Gardeners' Question Time* for us townies who prefer to take our countryside in small, aural doses.

Mr Naughtie's elaborate questions have more options than a multiple-choice exam paper. Like a diligent sheepdog, he circles the question, rounding up every

last subclause so that the entire flock of a question is hustled into the pen with no chance of escape — a case of *One Man And His Question*. Until they invent radios with fast-forward buttons, we just don't have the time. Once Mr Naughtie has begun speaking, an interviewee could comfortably stroll out of Broadcasting House for a cappuccino

and still be back in time to catch the end of the question.

And while he's packing his bags for greater things, could we please have a little consistency in the pronunciation department? If Naughtie really must be pronounced Nochie, why not describe Naughtie Heseltine as hochty, or John Major's predicament as frochty?

Tomorrow, Andrew Yates says Sue MacGregor should stand down

Letters, page 19

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How Castro misjudged America

Mark Falcoff explains the public support for Clinton's sanctions

The history of America's relations with Castro's Cuba is marked by crises followed by long periods of policy stagnation. The uproar over the shooting down last weekend of two unarmed civilian planes piloted by Cuban-Americans operating from bases in Florida will repeat this pattern. Once again Castro was shown to be capable of disproportionate brutality in dealing with challenges to his power. In this case it was the prospect of a few hundred political leaflets falling to earth, urging his people to do something which almost none would be foolish enough to attempt — namely, to take to the streets and demand the overthrow of the regime.

The incident has, however, knocked the props from under one of the principal assumptions of Castro's regime. It had expected that after being rejected this November, President Clinton would lift the 36-year trade embargo on Cuba, and normalise relations. Instead, on Monday Clinton announced a tightening of sanctions, and even held out the possibility of his Administration endorsing the yet stronger measures which are being considered by the Republican Congress.

Castro's feud with the US is deeply personal

In effect, Castro has greatly misjudged both Clinton and the American public, and once again he has indefinitely postponed any improvement of relations with the United States. The same effect might easily have been achieved by the jailing at the end of last week of 50 leaders of the Cuban Council, an umbrella organisation of dissident groups favouring change through peaceful dialogue, which was to have had its first public meeting in Havana on Saturday. Once again, Castro's refusal to countenance even harmless manifestations of opposition invalidates the claim — whether by greedy businessmen anxious to operate in an environment free of independent trade unions, or leftist professors still in search of Utopia — that Cuba is changing and that America must respond sympathetically.

The crackdown on the Cuban Council led to protest across the political spectrum in Washington, not least from one Massachusetts congressman who only weeks ago led a delegation of businessmen to meet Castro, so technically defying American law.

What is Castro's problem when it comes to the United States? Evidently, it is partly the existence of a large, affluent and politically organised Cuban-American community, which is determined to see its homeland freed of communism as quickly as possible. While this community numbers at most two million people, it is concentrated in Florida and New Jersey, states rich in electoral votes which no presidential candidate can afford to ignore, and which become more significant during the primary season.

But Cuban-Americans on their own could never hope to determine the foreign policy of a superpower. Rather, repeat-

ed polls show that most Americans broadly share their views and goals. A survey conducted last year by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations found that Castro himself is one of the least popular foreign leaders, somewhere between Yasser Arafat and Saddam Hussein. Cuba itself is considerably less popular than China, Saudi Arabia or India, and barely more so than North Korea.

More surprising, perhaps, is the 44 per cent support for military intervention in Cuba in the event of a popular uprising — exceeded only by the support for a similar response if Russia were to invade Western Europe or Iraq to invade Saudi Arabia.

Although its partisan critics sometimes claim otherwise, the Clinton Administration has no particular sympathy with Castro or his regime, even though the Cuban dictator often describes himself as well disposed towards the President, and has sometimes cited with approval Clinton's opposition to the Vietnam War.

Castro forgets that the Administration is full of veterans of the human rights movement of the 1970s and 1980s. One of these, Harriet Babbitt, now Clinton's Ambassador to the Organisation of American States, was instrumental in obtaining the release from prison several years ago of the Cuban poet Maria Elena Cruz Varela.

At the same time, many of Clinton's people are veteran critics of previous Administrations which were prepared to do business with anti-communist dictators. They see no reason to alter their standards merely because the last repressive regime in Latin America happens to fly the banners of the Left rather than the Right.

Richard Nuccio, the President's principal policy adviser on Cuba, has lately been making this point in his efforts to prick the conscience of America's allies in Europe, many of whom seem to feel that communism in Cuba is merely an expression of exotic tropical tastes.

Without doubt there is a deeply personal aspect to the feud between Castro and the United States. This grudge-match undoubtedly colours the reaction of other countries; indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that on the Cuban issue every country brings to bear not so much its views of Cuban communism as its attitudes towards the United States.

It is understandable, if not particularly commendable, that Canada or Iraq or Mexico might choose to use Cuba as a means to achieve some measure of independence from (or defiance of) the world's remaining superpower. The United States cannot be expected to embrace the same attitudes, least of all when its own political traditions, public opinion, and the facts of the case point to the continuing need for vigilance.

The author is resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.



LEAP YEAR PROPOSAL

Boosted by a boom

Accelerating monetary growth is good news for the Tories' election hopes, but it is also inflationary

Most people have been assuming for years that the Conservatives were bound to lose the next general election. I certainly have, and I still think it probable. Yet the British economy is beginning to look rather similar to the way it did 15 months before the 1987 election. Margaret Thatcher won that one with an overall majority of 100. If it is the economy which decides elections, the Conservatives' chances must be much better than they looked a few months ago, even though they have continued to make mistakes and suffer embarrassments. Perhaps the winter of their discontent will now be made glorious summer by the sun of economic expansion. It has happened before.

The financial pages sometimes tell one more about the future of politics than the big political stories. This week the political story was Scott. Yet one point about the Scott report was first mentioned. It is all history. Geoffrey Howe's famous guidelines were first formulated in 1984, 12 years ago. The Matrix Churchill prosecution was in 1992, four years ago. Sir Richard Scott spent three years on his inquiry. The debates were interesting, and the issue of open government is important, but these matters are not going to decide the next general election.

Hardly anyone outside the City will have paid attention to Tuesday's report in the *Wall Street Journal* of the fall in the American bond market.

US government bonds fell amid uncertainty over the course of monetary policy and a falling dollar. The retreat continued the sell-off that started last week. The fear that the Federal Reserve will be keeping interest rates steady for the time being has resulted in hedge funds selling... Last week Morgan Stanley & Co told clients that "a short position is warranted in the US bond market". The 30-year bond shed more than two points last week after Mr Greenspan told a congressional committee that the economy's recent weakness would be temporary.

Alan Greenspan has just been appointed to a third term as chairman of the Fed.

This *Wall Street Journal* report has much more bearing on the likely outcome of the next general election in Britain than the whole battle over Scott, even including the Government's quasi-miraculous one-vote majority.

The American bond market is the central mechanism of world credit. Any substantial change in American credit tends to become universal and to have a major impact on the economy of every country. America's bond market is more important to the British economy than any domestic market.

What is the logic behind this sudden fall, which has taken most professional traders by surprise? At first sight it appears to be good news. Alan Greenspan, himself an excellent economic forecaster, says that the United States is not going into a recession, but is set for further growth after this winter's slowdown. This means that he will not feel the need to cut short-term interest rates further in order to stimulate the economy.

Interest rates in general will be somewhat higher than the market had been expecting. Good economic news thus becomes bad financial news.

The leading British monetary forecaster, Professor Tim Congdon, has already taken the same view. In the *Garrard & National Monthly Economic Review* for February, he writes that "real broad money growth appears to be reviving, after a long period of stagnation in the early 1990s. The conclusion has to be that the current sluggishness in world economic activity is only a passing phase". In the past year, as Tim Congdon's charts show, real growth of broad money has been faster in Britain and the United States than at any time since 1989, although Germany, France and Italy are still well below their 1989 level. Japan is also inflating the money supply, rather fast.

A great deal of experience from many countries shows that changes in real broad money forecast changes in output six months or so later. That experience led Alan Greenspan to make his confident forecast of American growth in the second half of this

year. Both in the United States and Britain, monetary growth in the past year is predicting stronger economic expansion in the rest of 1996 and into 1997. This period covers both the American and the British elections.

Presidents do not often lose elections, but Jimmy Carter did in 1980, and George Bush did in 1992. Both defeats occurred when the growth of real broad money was falling. The intervening Republican victories had coincided with periods of monetary expansion. In Britain, real broad money was flat in 1992, when John Major had his remarkable victory, but it was falling in 1974 and 1979, when Governments were turned out. There is a close connection between the growth of real money and the "feel-good" factor, and a close connection between the feel-good factor and election results. It does not always work that way, but it often does.

Now that real money is expanding rapidly, real incomes will also increase. Any period of prolonged real money growth causes asset values to rise as well. In Britain, the stock market and farmland are both buoyant forecasts are now being made of a recovery in the housing market. For the middle classes, the feel-good factor is much the same thing as their personal balance sheets. By the end of 1996, most people's net assets will be looking healthier than at any time since 1989. Their assets will be rising in value; interest rates are likely to rise only moderately. Unemployment will continue to fall.

There is no master world economist who manipulates the world credit cycle for the benefit of the Conservative Party, although presidential elections do influence the American credit cycle. Bill Clinton is working for his own re-election and cannot help also working to reelect

John Major. The British Conservatives seem to have got the cycle right this time. Happy days are here again, and they are likely to last until after polling day.

Two questions arise. Will the electorate forget how much they have disliked the Government over the past four years, and vote Conservative again because they have been feeling richer in the year before the election? Will a rapidly rising money supply cause a return to inflation? Nobody knows the answer to the first question. Sometimes, as in 1964, an election can be lost even though real money supply is rising. The money supply is not an automatic voucher for re-electing governments. However, most voters are most likely to be personally better off in a year's time than they are now. That must help the Conservative recovery and threaten the Labour lead. Of course, a couple of by-elections, or defections, could prevent the Conservatives from reaching 1997, and the improvement has barely yet begun.

Economists also dispute the relationship between monetary growth and inflation. I think Tim Congdon is right: "It might be an old gramophone record, but the tiresome message has to be repeated. In the long run, 10 per cent broad money growth cannot be reconciled with inflation of 2.5 per cent or less." That is the lesson of history, including the Lawson boom of the late 1980s.

Between 1980 and 1987, real broad money growth in Britain rose from minus 5 to plus 15 per cent. This created an enormous increase in house prices, and it helped to win two elections. It was followed by inflation, which peaked at around 8 per cent in 1990. After that came the recession. If the money supply continues to grow at around 10 per cent, inflation will follow, and recession will follow that.

I do not take a purely mechanistic view of politics, but I think the present growth of the money supply justifies these forecasts. For the next 12 months, incomes and employment will be rising in Britain. So will asset values, including houses, and probably the stock market — though that has risen already. Most people will feel richer and more confident. This is bound to boost the Conservative recovery as the election approaches. In 1997, the bill may be presented in terms of higher inflation and higher interest rates, but by then the election will be over.

Old age and new Labour

Chris Smith outlines his pension plans

Reading Woodrow Wyatt's article on pensions policy in Tuesday's *Times*, one would have thought that we were all living in the best of all possible worlds and that Peter Lilley was set to lead us into a new shining era of universal contentment. The trouble is, this bears precious little relation to reality.

Lord Wyatt conveniently forgot that the relative value of the basic state pension has declined during the Tory years, from 22 per cent of average earnings to below 15 per cent, and it is still falling. He forgot that there are nearly 750,000 pensioners, who are living on an income below the level of income support.

When it comes to the provision that most people make for a second pension on top of the basic pension, the picture is almost as gloomy. There are many good, strong occupational pension schemes — the £600-billion of pension investment that is so often mentioned derives principally from these long-standing occupational schemes — but in the past few years the number of people in occupational schemes has actually fallen, with up to a million people being tempted out into personal pensions when they might well have been better advised to stay put. The framework put in place by the Government has meant that most personal pensions carry extremely high administrative costs and charges.

Some years ago, the Tories decided to mount an aggressive campaign to persuade people to take out personal pensions, instead of occupational schemes or Serps, the state scheme. They succeeded far too well, and millions opted out into personal pension schemes. Many are now worse off than they would otherwise have been.

At the same time, the Government has cut the value of Serps benefits by half, which means that Serp pensioners will be much worse off when they reach retirement than they once expected.

To those of my colleagues who argue that all an incoming Labour government needs to do is restore Serps to its former glory, I sound a warning. For doing so would not prevent a future Mr Lilley from cutting the value of the benefits once again. Because Serps depends on the benevolence of each younger generation to meet the costs of its elders' pensions, it will always be liable to raids of this kind. I should like to put in place something more robust, and more secure for the saver.

That is why Labour is looking closely at policy on second-tier pensions. I believe we need to look at a funded mechanism, in which an individual's pension fund builds up steadily over time, growing as a result of judicious investment by pension trustees. Already, all those in work are required to put 4.8 per cent of their National Insurance contributions into a second pension scheme, whether Serps, a personal or an occupational scheme. I would not wish to increase this compulsion on employees. Through a partnership between government and the private sector, I want to develop a better way of using this existing contribution, perhaps topped up with voluntary payments.

It must, however, be possible to provide a better return than existing personal pensions. It is all very well for Woodrow Wyatt to say that some of these have shown a 10 per cent return in the past year, but this is entirely because of the growth in the investment market. The returns would have been even better if administrative costs were not in some cases as high as 25 per cent. The way to reduce these costs is to have individual savings with collective funds, so that savers have their own pension pots — about which they are regularly informed — but as parts of a strong collective investment vehicle that keeps costs to a minimum.

Some have argued — most notably my parliamentary colleague Frank Field — that a national pension corporation should be established, at arm's length from government, to carry out this investment role. I do not, however, consider a single national body of this kind as sensible. It would make it harder to drive down costs through competition; it would offer too little freedom of choice for the investor; and it might create a monster to dominate the investment market in Britain.

It would be better to have a range of funds available, with savers free to choose whether to invest or whether to continue with an occupational or private scheme. Giving savers greater choice and power over their own savings is crucial in devising a new scheme.

Other countries, such as Finland, Chile and Australia, have begun to develop second pension schemes with some of these characteristics. None of them is perfect, but we can learn from them. Partly through dogma, but mainly through incompetence, the Government has saddled us with an expensive and inappropriate framework for pensions. I want to see a Labour government putting something better in its place.

The author is Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security.

Taste buddy

THE QUEEN has appointed a new food-taster. After losing the previous incumbent to the Ritz, she has poached the banqueting manager of Claridge's.

As Assistant to the Master of the Household (Food Division), Andrew Jarman's task will be to oversee catering arrangements for Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace and her other residences, and, in the meantime, on *HMV Britannia* as well.

He was recommended to Her Majesty by the manager of Claridge's, David Broadhead. "Really, the job equates to being food and beverage manager for the Royal Family," says Broadhead. "Andrew Jarman is very erudite, and I am sure he will fit well into the household."

The tradition of Buckingham Palace poaching from Claridge's — reportedly one of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's favourite watering holes — goes back some years. The late Sir Hugh Wommerley was chairman of the Savoy, which owns Claridge's, used to tip the Queen the wink as soon as the right sort of chap came along. Sir Hugh was Clerk to the Royal Kitchens, so the post has usually

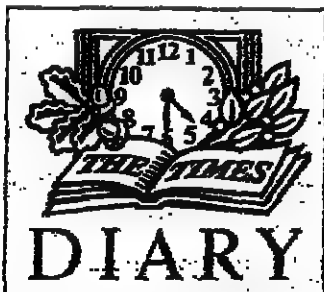
been filled by someone from within the company.

Dream on

THE EXTRAORDINARY rumour sweeping the first-night party after Phillip Schofield's return to London in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was that Anthea Turner, of the National



"Don't bother, dear, you won't get legal aid"



Lottery draw, is soon to star in a musical.

"The only thing is, I can't sing," she said. This was dismissed as a trifling obstacle. "Four years ago I hadn't sung in my life," said Schofield. "At school, I was kept out of *Joseph* because I couldn't sing a note, now I've done it hundreds of times. I'm even confident enough to wear the costumes." Confidence indeed, given the skimpy Ancient Egyptian mini-skirt he has to wear.

Sweet sorrow

LET'S HOPE the divorce of the Prince and Princess of Wales will not be as messy as the most recent divorce among the Prince's ancestors. Prince Albert's father, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, divorced his wife Louise when she

ran off with a German count. She was banned from seeing her two sons ever again, and died in exile at a tender age. The Duke subsequently remarried — to his niece.

In a storm

THE WORLD of port wine is flushed with excitement. Talk among toppers is that 1994 will be declared a vintage year. The last vintage was 1991, and port buffs are smacking their crusted lips.

Serena Sutcliffe, a wine expert at Sotheby's, believes the declaration will be made soon. "People who have babies born in a vintage year get very excited. Lots of cases will be laid down."

Caw!

AT LONDON ZOO they are hoping that the female's traditional leap year prerogative to propose to the male will resolve a bizarre love triangle currently ruffling feathers in the aviary. After years of blissful cohabitation, Sam and Jo, the blue and gold macaws, have had their peace shattered by the arrival of Brian, a green-winged macaw.

Brian is 15, very experienced and rather keen on Sam. She is rather shy and naive and has been flitting between the two chaps."



The transvestite and the film-star

says a beady-eyed biologist. "It's starting to get acrimonious so she'll have to choose."

Bottom line

BRUCE WILLIS was upstaged on Tuesday at the first London Restaurant Awards, where he took the prize for best themed restaurant for Planet Hollywood, which he co-owns with other stars.

A glamorous transvestite, doubtless inspired by the antics of pop singer Jarvis Cocker at the Brit Awards, decided to hop on stage just as Willis was collecting his prize from Mariella Frostrup. The interloper tried to grab Willis's boutonniere, and nearly succeeded, since

● The announcement that the Princess of Wales had agreed to a divorce was probably the subject of an earnest discussion between two learned gentlemen yesterday in the Chalmers Room of the House of Lords. The Prince of Wales was seen lunching there with Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor — who is, of course, architect of the planned divorce reforms.

P.H.S



TIMING FOR TALKS

With hopes and foreboding, the Irish peace process resumes

Timetables dominated yesterday's relaunch of the peace process. Agreement between London and Dublin was accelerated to ensure that John Major and the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, could unveil their accord before catching their flights east for another summit. The agreement itself set a strict timetable for intensive discussions and then elections, with all-party talks firmly fixed for June 10.

Mr Major and Mr Bruton might not have felt quite the same sense of urgency about the need for a new communiqué if the IRA had not resumed its bombing campaign. Apologists for the IRA argued it was provoked beyond endurance by the British Government's delays in moving to inclusive negotiations. The IRA leaders now have the date that they demanded for talks, and have seen the pace of the peace process advance dramatically. Some may feel that ground has been reasonably yielded. Others, though, relieved at the extent of agreement between the two Governments, can be forgiven for a sense of foreboding.

There are certainly grounds for hope in the firm commitment from both Governments to elections before talks. Barely three weeks ago Mr Bruton claimed elections would be held on the flames in Ulster. Far from being an incendiary device, elections are an affirmation that democracy is the path to progress. Negotiators need mandates and mandates need to be refreshed.

But there are causes for concern. The first is the brevity of the time allowed to establish not just the method of elections to a talks forum, but also the shape of such a forum. Then there is the wisdom of holding an all-Ireland referendum at the same time as any elections. Ten days have been set aside to resolve these intensely sensitive matters. If agreement has not been reached then London and Dublin will impose a solution. Agreement on so much in such a short space of time is unlikely. Imposition of structures from above, without the agreement of all parties, could see another aspect of Ulster's future being decided above the heads of its people. That would not build confidence.

An all-Ireland referendum would set

another unfortunate precedent. Determining any issue, even one as apparently anodyne as the rejection of violence, on such a basis is an implicit embrace of Irish nationalism. Bracketing Ulster with Eire in such a vote, and excluding the rest of the British Isles, could appear to be a repudiation of the democratically-expressed wishes of Ulster's majority to be considered citizens of the United Kingdom.

The most profound cause for concern is the leeway apparently allowed to Sinn Féin to lure it to the table. The demand that a ceasefire be reinstated before Sinn Féin can join negotiations is welcome but no more than should be expected. The devils are in the detail. Sinn Féin will have a right to contest elections to a talks forum, and then take up its seats without making a commitment permanently to abandon violence.

A pledge to advance exclusively by peaceful means and a tangible commitment to disarmament will not be entry requirements to talks, simply the first item on the agenda. If the IRA calls a ceasefire, without any proof of its permanence, then its army council members, standing on a Sinn Féin ticket, could be at the talks table in three months' time. Once there, the pressure will be to keep them there. The insistence that a gesture towards disarmament had to come before all-party talks was long ago abandoned. The British Government must not weaken again.

London and Dublin have done everything that democrats could, and perhaps more than they should, to wean republicans away from violence. The patience and sincerity of the two Prime Ministers in their pursuit of peace compels admiration. If there is now no new ceasefire there can be no excuses. The Provisionals will be pariahs.

But, even if the IRA does call another ceasefire, the guard cannot drop. Guarantees that would have indicated a republican commitment to permanent peace have already been relaxed. In the weeks ahead the people who will demand, and deserve, reassurance are the great majority of Northern Ireland's citizens who have endured so much and who wish to see the Province's future decided by democracy.

DIANA AND DIVORCE

Time to draw a line under the past

The Princess of Wales's agreement to her husband's request to a divorce promises to draw a welcome line under what had become a protracted and painful parting of the royal ways. The couple's years of separation without divorce were messy and sad to behold. Every friendship became a focus for the press. The Princess's constitutional position was left uncertain. Life had become particularly awkward for the two young princes.

When couples part, there is always a hope, initially at least, that reconciliation can be achieved. Such an outcome was clearly no longer a possibility for the Prince and Princess of Wales. Better that a divorce should take place, preferably in as civilised a fashion as possible, than that the two should remain in limbo any longer.

The Princess of Wales can now start a new life. But divorce from the Prince need not entail an abandonment of the ambitions that she outlined in her *Panorama* interview. As Diana, Princess of Wales, she can still perform a useful role in charitable work. If she wants to enlarge upon that role overseas, as a humanitarian ambassador, so much the better. Her popular appeal is likely to be undiminished by the divorce. But one advantage of being her own woman should be that she feels liberated from many of the constraints of royal protocol.

When the subject of a divorce first arose, there was inevitably a worry that the Princess might be forced into such an action

against her will. This now looks unlikely. More than three years have elapsed since the announcement of the couple's separation, and they had grown apart long before that. The Princess has had plenty of time to reflect upon the implications of divorce. It must be more palatable to her than the current unresolved position. And she has clearly come to terms with the idea that she will never become Queen.

Constitutionally, a divorce simplifies matters too. When the separation was first announced in the Commons, John Major told an incredulous chamber that it would make no difference: the Princess of Wales would still be Queen at her estranged husband's side. This made little sense at the time, and the longer the separation has lasted, the more extraordinary it has seemed. Doubtless the Princess would never have acted in so undignified a fashion as her husband's royal forbear, but the prospect of a repert of Queen Caroline's behaviour, hammering at the door of Westminster Abbey, as King George IV was being crowned inside, was too embarrassing to contemplate.

Now the country can rest at ease. And so can the Princess. The Queen is quite right to allow her to remain in Kensington Palace with her own staff, and not to send her into exile, either at home or abroad. She will always, after all, be the mother of the future King. In that capacity, she deserves to lead a dignified and useful life.

GOING FOR A BYGONE

Any garage sale that is good for Jackie O is good for America

A man has not lived life to the full until he has died in the United States. No, nor woman either. For the everything-must-go garage sale of the effects of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis forms a lifetime's archive of her possessions. And such is the interest of Americans in this last chance to buy a piece of Camelot that Sotheby's has already received more than 16,000 orders for its doorstopper catalogue. Raffles will have to be held to select who wins admission to the three-day sale in April as well as the viewing days before it.

A garage sale is the opposite to a car-boot sale. In the latter the British unload knick-knacks, usually knick-knacks without knick-knacks, sometimes not even theirs to start with. But in a garage sale, everything goes. Friends can buy the pictures, the plates and the gown their dear departed was wearing when she last had them to dinner. Anyone can bid for the furniture and fittings of the former First Lady's life, from the trivial to the portentous. The Lesotho Diamond is up for sale, but so is the maroon suit Jackie Kennedy wore when she gave her famous televised tour of the White House and the lighter of the covert chain-smoker. Our nearest equivalent is the farm sale, when the neighbours bid for relics from the tractor to obsolete milk churns.

Few sales, however, can be as glamorous as that of Jackie Kennedy. For in her life she cultivated her legend for style unknown in politicians and their spouses, and in her death it has not left her. When it comes, the

garage sale for Hillary Clinton may be as revealing but cannot hope to be as fashionable. Psychedelic headbands and LPs from Yale in the Sixties, presentation trinkets to the minor governor's lady and uninteresting legal files cannot compete with the wardrobe, hats and even the high-school French grammar of Jackie Kennedy.

They manage inheritance better in America. That outwardly mobile society is less sentimental and less sticky about the incidental furniture of life. They look forward to new frontiers rather than backward to old legacies. Ancient Egyptian celebrities took their stuff with them. Romans disliked their heirs and tried to get through their property before they left it for good. In Europe the dead man's possessions are jealously divided among the family. They are then put away in the attic or indeed the garage, until resurrected to fame or disappointment for some television programme pricing bygone objects. Clothes used to be presented by noblesse oblige to the servants and deserving poor of the parish. Now they tend to be taken in black bags to charity shops.

As Alan Clark exemplified in his notorious remark about Michael Heseltine, the British take a snobbish satisfaction from not having to buy their own furniture. For we are greedy magpies of things. But for clothes, and the lesser stuff of life, we should suit ourselves. And like the Americans, look forward not back.

Humane priorities and weapon sales

From the Director of Oxfam and others

Sir, The Scott report exposes the fact that in decisions on weapons sales, financial gain is given priority over international security, human rights and development.

The UK accounts for over 20 per cent of the weapons pouring into the world's poorest countries. These exports have greatly exacerbated some of the horrific conflicts of recent years. The Government has promised a consultation paper on the whole system of UK arms exports and we urge it to adopt a more responsible attitude to this sale of weapons.

Sir Richard Scott's report shows the need for arms exports to be based on clear, objective criteria, which should be established at international level to negate arguments that "if we don't sell weapons, someone else will". In 1991 and 1992 the UK, as part of the EU, agreed eight criteria which should govern arms exports. These seek to prevent sales to countries with poor human rights records, regions of instability, military aggressors and dictatorial regimes. They could be highly effective but they are non-binding and have been simply disregarded by many member states.

We urge the UK to ensure the strict application of the criteria by introducing a binding European code of conduct on the arms trade into the Maastricht treaty at the forthcoming inter-governmental conference. This vital opportunity to stem irresponsible sales of weapons to the developing world should not be missed.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BRYER,
Director, Oxfam,
PAUL EAVIS
(Director, Salfordworld),
JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI
(Director, CARODI),
HARRIET LAMB
(Acting Director,
World Development Movement),
IAN LIDEN
(General Secretary, Catholic Institute for International Relations),
DANIEL PLESCH
(Director, British American Security Information Council),
KUMAR RUPESINGHE
(Secretary General, International Alert),
MICHAEL TAYLOR
(Director, Christian Aid),
c/o Salfordworld,
3rd Floor, 33-34 Alfred Place, WCI,
February 27.

Al Fayed rejection

From Mr Bill Kearns

Sir, The capacity of the present Government to perpetuate injustice is remarkable. At a time when the Scott report dominates the headlines the continuing injustice to the Al Fayed, signalled by the appropriately named Mr Justice Judge, should not be overlooked (report, February 27).

The Al Fayed generosity to good causes, the restoration of Harrods and their contribution to the economic wellbeing of this country alongside their long-time residence should more than qualify them for citizenship.

There is still time for the Home Secretary to be mindful of the implied strictures of Mr Justice Judge and do the sensible and decent thing and reverse his decision.

Yours ever,
BILL KEARNS,
11 Court Royal Mews,
Northlands Road,
Southampton, Hampshire,
February 27.

Episcopal pay

From the Reverend Gavin R. P. Ashenden

Sir, The Reverend Anthony Cane (letter, February 24) invokes shame on members of General Synod and the Bishop of Chester for not abolishing the pay differentials for bishops.

Bishop Baughen captured the hearts and minds of synod as he described the particular practical difficulties he faced in his ministry (report, February 15). He asked only that they be taken into account in whatever levelling measures synod might take.

It might have decided to abolish the differentials, which help pay for the upkeep of large buildings used for episcopal pastoral care, but it would then have had to dedicate itself to organising a complex scale of compensating expenses. These would have had to include a long and esoteric list of special factors, varying from wives' earnings to numbers of children and years of pastoral experience.

A minor injustice might have been remedied. But then many synod members preferred to avoid the prospect of opening up endless hours of argument over a labyrinthine system of clergy expenses.

There is a sense in this synod that in the middle of the Decade of Evangelism and at a time of growing social crisis and secular despair there are other priorities which should be engaging the minds and the prayers of Christ's Church in England.

Yours truly,
GAVIN ASHENDEN
(Synod member,
Southern Universities),
University of Sussex,
The Meeting House,
Palmer, Brighton, Sussex,
February 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Painful choices on 'Today' voices

From Mr Charles Stephens

Sir, Your report (February 26) a campaign by friends of Peter Hobday to keep this national morning treasure safe on the BBC *Today* programme. How can I become a friend of a friend of Hobday? We must do everything possible to scupper this outrageous attempt to squeeze such a witty and skilful presenter as Mr Hobday off our morning airwaves.

We may have to call for a National Hobday.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES STEPHENS,
9 Merrick Square, SE1,
February 26.

From Dr D. W. Phillips

Sir, Your contributor Giles Coren has overstepped the mark in his intemperate attack on Anna Ford ("Don't let them silence the voice of *Today*", February 27). Miss Ford is unique among broadcasters in her impeccable command of English, respecting not only the correct pronunciation of individual words, but the natural rhythms of the language as well.

Her apparent aloofness on the television screen also works to her advantage. Most of her colleagues only manage to make fools of themselves when, as they far too frequently do, they abandon their proper role of newsreader and assume the mantle of the interrogator.

Yours truly,
DAVID PHILLIPS,
1 Post Office Cottages,
Shortenden, Canterbury, Kent,
February 27.

Fears of Communism in Russia

From Mr Oleg Gordievsky

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's wish ("Why Russia needs Communism", February 20) that Gorbachev and the Communists return to power in Russia is not so very eccentric as it may seem to many people: generations of Western liberals, inspired by curiously masochistic motives, have in turn admired Stalin, Mao, Tito, Ho Chi Minh, Castro and even Ceausescu.

Kaletsky's main argument, that the Communist Party should never have been removed from power since it was important to the administrative and economic structure of Russia, is ludicrous. Following this logic, one can say that slavery should not have been abolished in the USA since it was vital to the economic and social fabric of America; and Nazism should not have been destroyed since it was extremely beneficial for the prosperity, might and morale of the German nation.

The Communist Party and Gorbachev led the country predictably to a complete dead end. Remember how, at the end of 1990, all the countries of the West sent food parcels to the USSR? After Yeltsin's and Gaidar's economic reforms, which were made possible only because the Communists had been removed from power, the problem of the lack of produce which had plagued the Russian people for 75 years disappeared almost overnight. So did the queues.

Russia's problem is not that it is not being governed by the Communist Party, but that Communist ways of thinking are still too prevalent as a result of decades of indoctrination and that there are too many Communist dinosaurs in all administrative and political structures.

Yours etc,
OLEG GORDIEVSKY,
c/o A. M. Heath & Co,
79 St Martin's Lane, WC2,
February 23.

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, As one who was totally unaffected by Gorbachev, I do not think your Commentator of the Year's comments on post-Soviet politics should pass without counter-comment.

Mikhail Gorbachev's PR skills were remarkable, but he never tired of reiterating his deep commitment to Lenin, creator of the Cheka (ancestor of the KGB) and advocate of mass terrorism. His *perestroika* consisted of attempting to reform the unreformable

From Mr David A. Pearl

Sir, You report that Mr Roger Mosey, editor of Radio 4's *Today*, wants a younger audience and more women listeners.

Why is this? What is the optimum number of female or young listeners? Is it an absolute number or a proportion? If a proportion, is it sufficient to deter males and older listeners from tuning in, so that a more "balanced" (but possibly smaller) audience results?

I listen to *Today* whenever I can. It is a programme of the highest quality, a great glory for the BBC. If any groups of our heterogeneous population are missing it, it is their loss. Let the presenters present. And long may the editor edit.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. PEARL,
4 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4,
February 27.

From Mrs Sue Dennis

Sir, No matter that *Today* has the ear of the nation for that it is Cabinet ministers' essential morning briefing, if Peter Hobday goes I shall be turning to Capital Radio for my early morning listening, and will be lobbying my colleagues "below stairs" in the Commons to do likewise. The update on his Camellia every now and again helps to put politics into perspective.

Yours sincerely,
SUE DENNIS
(House of Commons secretary),
House of Commons, SW1,
February 26.

In the hope of maintaining communism, so long as the West picked up the tabs (as our American friends say).

At least Boris Yeltsin stood up to the challenges of the phoney coup of August 1991 and of the Communist-dominated parliament two years later. Anatole Kaletsky does not seem to be worried by the return of the Communists to power in Russia and most of eastern Europe. I am. Given a choice between an ex-Communist who never denounced the old regime and one who did, the choice is clear, whatever the multiplying problems Yeltsin faces.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CROZIER,
1 Carlisle Place, SW1,
February 20.

From Mr Leonid Vladimirov

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky believes that Communists have an "apparent ability to restore order and proper government in Russia" and, what is more, that they will not try to renationalise property or go back on the most important aspects of market reform.

If 74 years of Communist rule in Russia is anything to go by, then one may only expect from them more of the same — coercion, oppression and central planning. The party's present leader, Gennadi Zyuganov, is a Stalinist: in his recently published book, *Veru v Rossiiu [I Believe in Russia]*, he lamented that Stalin died too early, claiming that had he lived longer he would have made Communist power in Russia irreversible.

The recent gains by Communists in Russian parliamentary elections were a sign of despair among the millions of "new poor" in Yeltsin's Russia, and Yeltsin is to be blamed not for his abolition of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union but for his hesitant behaviour after the failed Communist coup of 1991.

Yet the economic reforms introduced by Gaidar have not stopped, and Russian economic prospects are not so bleak as a year ago. Russia still has free elections and, astonishingly, a free press. Communists, if they come to power, cannot but aggravate the economic situation, remove democratic freedoms and continue the bloodshed in Chechnya.

Yours sincerely,
L. VLADIMIROV,
25 Wesley Square, W11,
February 20.

guy". The deceptively boyish sometimes feel a need to sound as hard as they are. He is someone I would not be surprised at all to find in charge of a police unit in the States. Furthermore, I learned the painful way on the American football fields of my youth that one can get one's bell rung as well by a tenor as a baritone.

There is, of course, a difference between being up to your elbows in alligators in New York and trying to prevent alligators taking over London, but, in either situation, one wrong move and your whole day can be ruined. The imminence of such danger rings true in each series. I'll certainly be tuned into both again on Thursday.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM SONZSKI,
14 Wetherby Gardens, SW5,
February 23.

Business letters, page 29

Sports letters, page 42

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Airline service in a class of its own

From Dr John Powell

Sir, I was flying back from business in Sweden to East Midlands Airport in December. The final leg of my journey was from Brussels. Arriving at the gate in good time from my previous flight I was told that the aircraft was full and I would have to join the next flight to Birmingham.

I explained that I was travelling business class and a ticket which purported to offer me flexibility must surely secure me a place on my pre-arranged flight.

I was informed that the "unreliability" of business-class passengers was the reason why the airlines overbooked flights. This attitude is confirmed in the following extract from a letter I later received from British Midland: "With regard to the overbooking of flights, I should advise that we do operate a limited policy in this regard. This is based upon extensive research over a substantial period of time and is due to the large number of customers who fail to show for their particular flight. Due to flexibility of the higher priced tickets, this does indeed tend to be our EuroClass customers."

The original concept of business class or EuroClass tickets was to offer a no-fuss flight-change facility for customers willing to pay between two and three times the economy fare. Extra perks included more leg-room and improved in-flight service.

Nowadays the leg-room has all but disappeared, the in-flight service is fairly uniform and there appears to be no flexibility in the system because whenever possible, flights are over-booked.

The situation becomes ridiculous when a business-class ticket (in this case £865.80) can't even get you home on time.

Some airlines are, in my opinion, abusing the business-class system and will continue to do so until they are persuaded otherwise. Perhaps a boycott would be in order.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN POWELL,
Flat 4, 6 Western Terrace,
The Park, Nottingham,
February 21.

Brit Awards

From Mr John Timms

Sir, On what does Sir Tim Rice (letter, February 24) base his assumption that the present Government has any responsibility for the achievements of the British music industry? His comments about the appearance of Tony Blair at the Brit Awards ceremony seem both jaundiced and partisan.

The success of the music industry is due mainly to the support of a section of the electorate which I suspect has very little interest in politics and indeed may regard the music as being a perfect release from the sad world the present Government has involved it in. Perhaps this is the responsibility Tim Rice refers to.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TIMMS,
39 East Trinity Road,
Edinburgh 5,
February 24.

From Mrs Jo Carruthers

Sir, I had originally considered Tim Rice's suggestion that Tony Blair should have credited this Conservative Government for the resurgence of popular music in the United Kingdom as being too puerile to warrant contradiction.

I now realise that my judgment was too hasty. After all, who else but the Conservative Party is responsible for the fact that many of my generation had nothing to do in their teens and early twenties but sit around in their bedrooms, twanging guitars and composing songs which are wry commentaries on a society from which they feel economically and sociologically excluded.

The Tories may, therefore, ultimately be responsible for the musical geniuses of Albarn, Gallagher, Cocker, etc because music is the only medium through which they have a voice.

Yours faithfully,
J. CARRUTHERS,
5 Mielethrush Way,
West Derby, Liverpool,
February 27.

The manner born

From Mr J. B. Laine, FRCS

Sir, It is hardly surprising that "the succession of the Dukes of Atholl has not been straightforward" (Obituary, February 28), as it seems the 4th Duke "gave birth to the 5th Duke".

Yours truly,
J. B. LAINE,
Springfield, Marford,
Nr Wrexham, North Wales,
February 28.

Mysterious ways

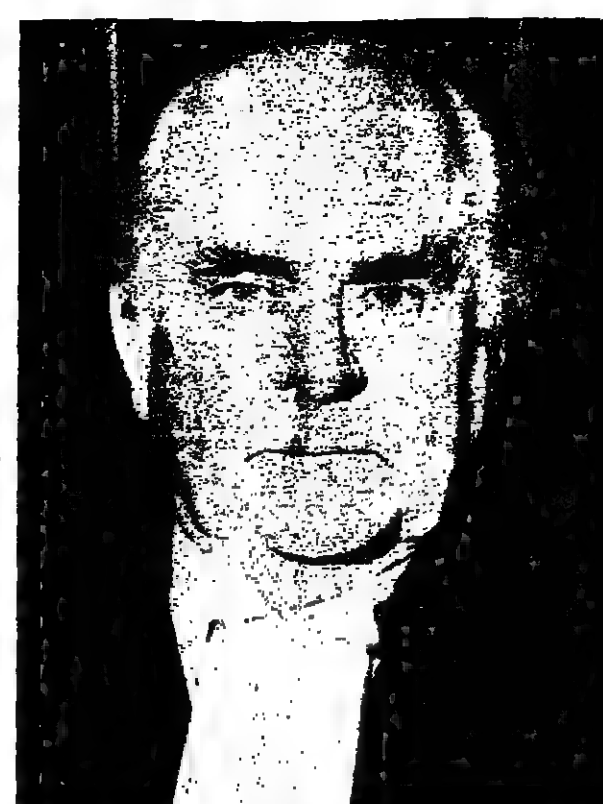
From Mr David Ballantyne

Sir, I don't see what is so newsworthy about a woman playing God (report and photograph, February 28). A number of women (several in broadcasting and journalism spring to mind) have been playing God for as far back as I can remember.

Yours,
D. BALLANTYNE,
52 Bridgman Road, W4,
February 28.

JEFFREY QUILL

LORD AVONSIDE



His charge to the jury, in the case of Cawthorne in 1968 at the High Court in Inverness, became the basis of the law on attempted murder in Scotland when his view was upheld on appeal. A man had discharged a shotgun at a door not knowing whether anyone was behind it and the defence argued that attempted murder implied a deliberate effort to kill. Lord Avonside ruled that it could arise from a criminal-

JOHN LOUDON

N WOLFENDEN



She leaves a daughter and a son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

ON THIS DAY

February 29, 1892.

Many aspects of life in Victorian London are reflected in the reports of police courts over the years.

when the latter stated that he had placed the sheep in the alley in compliance with the orders of the former. The Alderman said it was evidently at the instigation of De Leew that the animals had been shut up in the alley. Had he been convinced that De Leew was the owner he would have been sent to prison without the option of a fine. As it was, he must pay the sum of 15 and costs. With respect to the drover, he must have been fully aware that it was a case of gross cruelty, and he must therefore pay a fine of £2 and costs.

Before Mr. Haden Corser. ALFRED and
HENRIETTA ROBSON, man and wife, of

Mandeville-street, Clapton, were charged on remand with obtaining charitable contributions from Mr. William Francis, one of the proprietors of the "Mocha Kaff Mince". Mr. Francis said he received a letter from "Mr. Allen Walker" saying that her husband (an old negro comedian) was lying dead at her residence in Southgate-road, and that she was penniless. Witness gave 10s. to his manager to send to the woman, but inquiries were made and Detective-sergeant Drew arrested the prisoners, after finding that the address in the Southgate-road was merely a shop where letters were exchanged.

Detective-sergeant Drew said he found letters upon the prisoners showing that they had got 10s. from Mrs. Sara Lane, of the Britannia Theatre, and 10s. from Mr. Gilbert Sabziel. A detective officer from the E division said the female prisoner had already been convicted of similar fraud. Hundreds of letters were then found, showing that she and her husband had been pests to theatrical people all

Mr. Corser now discharged the female prisoner, and told the male prisoner that it was such men as he who stopped the flow of charitable contributions for really deserving cases. He would be imprisoned and kept at hard labour for three months.

Take the fear out of tipping

I DOUBT if there is a business traveller who has not felt that awful pang of worry, and even belligerence, when being unctuously shown how to operate the television and the curtains in some foreign hotel room while wondering desperately what to do about a tip.

Some travellers, I am told, carefully collect loose change in the currency of their destination before they leave to use as tips. But I fear they are in the minority.

Most of us do not give it a thought until we have checked in and are then gripped with near panic when a porter appears to carry bags to the

An unscientific poll I conducted among about a dozen seasoned travellers into the whole vexed question produced no consensus.

One chap said he would not dream of leaving a hotel without adding 10 per cent to the bill. Another always left the equivalent of at least £10 in his room for the maid. A third made sure there was an ash-tray filled with loose change on the bed every day — together with a list of demands ranging from the precise setting of the air conditioning to the cleaning of shoes.

Perhaps the most perceptive was the smoothie who on arrival always tips the concierge and the head waiter and seeks out the person who looks after the room. "There is not the slightest point in tipping as you leave — unless you plan to return," he says.

Lord Bradford's Bill aimed at outlawing service and cover charges from restaurant bills has received widespread support and has triggered debate about tipping in Britain. But it does nothing to tackle the problem of travellers to other countries.

Perhaps the Bill should be taken over by the EU. If there was a norm throughout Europe we might be spared those moments of embarrassment. But in the absence of such international legislation, at least the multi-national chains with hotels around the world should tell us clearly whether their staff expect a tip and, if so, whether the money should be given as a lump sum into the communal coffers or to individuals.

Knights ride again

BY ROGER BRAY

KNIGHTS in full armour will joust and falcons will soar and swoop from leathered wrists at the new £425 million Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds.

The museum, which will be opened officially by the Queen next month, is displaying some of the hundreds of antique exhibits held by the Tower of London, many of which were left unseen because of lack of space.

There will also be demonstrations of Tudor sword-fighting techniques, 44 specially-made films, opportunities to test the muscle power needed to draw the English longbow and the chance to try on replica armour.

It is the first tourist project to have been developed through the Government's Private Finance Initiative, with half the money coming from the Department of National Heritage, £8 million from Leeds City Council and the rest from commerce and industry.

"Industry takes the risk and makes the profits," says the marketing director Julian Ravel, "but we get the best curatorial expertise."

The venture is another step in the revitalisation of the former textile centre, which is rapidly becoming a short-break destination for tourists from The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. It follows the opening of Teley's Brewery Wharf, with its history of pubs, and the restoration of fine Victorian buildings, including Kirkgate Market, the birthplace of Marks & Spencer.

Research suggests that the museum will attract about



A horseman from the Royal Armouries Museum

750,000 visitors in its first year and one million annually after that.

There will be five galleries, dealing with themes including the tournament, the changing technology of war, self-defence and oriental arms and martial

arts. Costumed "interpreters" will try to convey what it was like to be an archer in Henry V's Army or a musketeer at Blenheim. Children will be able to try their skill in a laser firing range.

actors, will need to be hyper-fit. Andrew Deane, for example, takes part in simulated fights wearing armour of mail and mild steel weighing 60lb and hefting a 3lb, Italian-made replica poleaxe.

After training as an actor, he became a circuit-training instructor at a London fitness centre and still runs in the mornings. He says: "It was probably easier for men in the 15th century. They were brought up to it and I suppose that they were well aware just how much energy they should use or conserve."

Tutored by John Waller, who has taught fighting techniques for the stage, two swordsmen are rehearsing Italian-style duelling with rapiers, daggers, and small shields called bucklers, anticipating each other's moves and avoiding injury by inches.

"We know some of the techniques from Shakespeare's stage directions," says Mr Waller. The Master of the Armouries, Guy Wilson, adds: "We are trying to do things in the demonstrations that haven't been done for hundreds of years."

Jousting, which is likely to be limited to the summer, will be lent realism by the sheer weight of the contestants' armour, which will be made in the museum. Riders will be mounted on Lithuanian draught horses, which are suitably deep-chested and short-backed.

The museum opens to the public on March 30, 10am-5pm winter, 10am-6pm summer. Admission: £6.95 (adults), £3.95 (children). The £100 is offering two-night breaks at its Leeds and Huddersfield hotels from £25 per night, including museum ticket.

Tired, jetlagged? Just take a couple of pills

BY NIGEL HAWKES

A JETLAG pill could result from research showing that a chemical controls the body's response to light and dark.

The daily rhythms of the body are set by light striking the retina and sending signals to a tiny group of cells just behind the eyes known as the suprachiasmatic nucleus, or SCN. From here, the signals are passed on to the pineal gland, which at appropriate times releases a sleep-inducing hormone, melatonin, into the bloodstream.

Rae Silver, Professor of Psychology at Columbia University, has discovered that the signal is carried between the SCN and the pineal gland, not by electrochemical connections but by a chemical signal — a molecule that diffuses into the brain.

She told the American Association for the Advancement of Science that she is trying to isolate the chemical and hopes that it will be a molecule small enough to cross the blood-brain barrier. That may mean that it can be used as a pill to reset the body clock for shift

workers, or people crossing time zones.

Professor Silver removed the SCN — the pacemaker — from the brains of laboratory rats, and showed that without it they slept and woke for a few minutes at a time with no discernible pattern. Once another pacemaker was transplanted in their brains, they regained normal rhythms.

The exact site in which the transplanted pacemaker was put did not seem to matter. It also continued to work even when all the brain call connections to it were broken. This leads her to the conclusion that the pacemaker operates by releasing a chemical signalling agent which diffuses throughout the brain.

The next stage is to implant pacemakers sealed inside membranes that will allow only light molecules to diffuse through. This will show how large the molecule is, and help to identify it. Isolated, it could provide a way for people to reset their biological clocks at will, which would be a boon for long-distance travellers.

Hong Kong cost-cutter

A BRUSSELS-Macau air service to be operated by Sabena and Air Portugal from April 1 will undercut British Airways and Cathay Pacific services to Hong Kong by up to 50 per cent. Macau's new airport is 55 minutes by hydrofoil from

Hong Kong. Economy-class seats for the twice-weekly non-stop flights from Brussels will cost about £600 return and business-class £1,150, compared with £835 to £2,311. Fares include transfers from some British cities.

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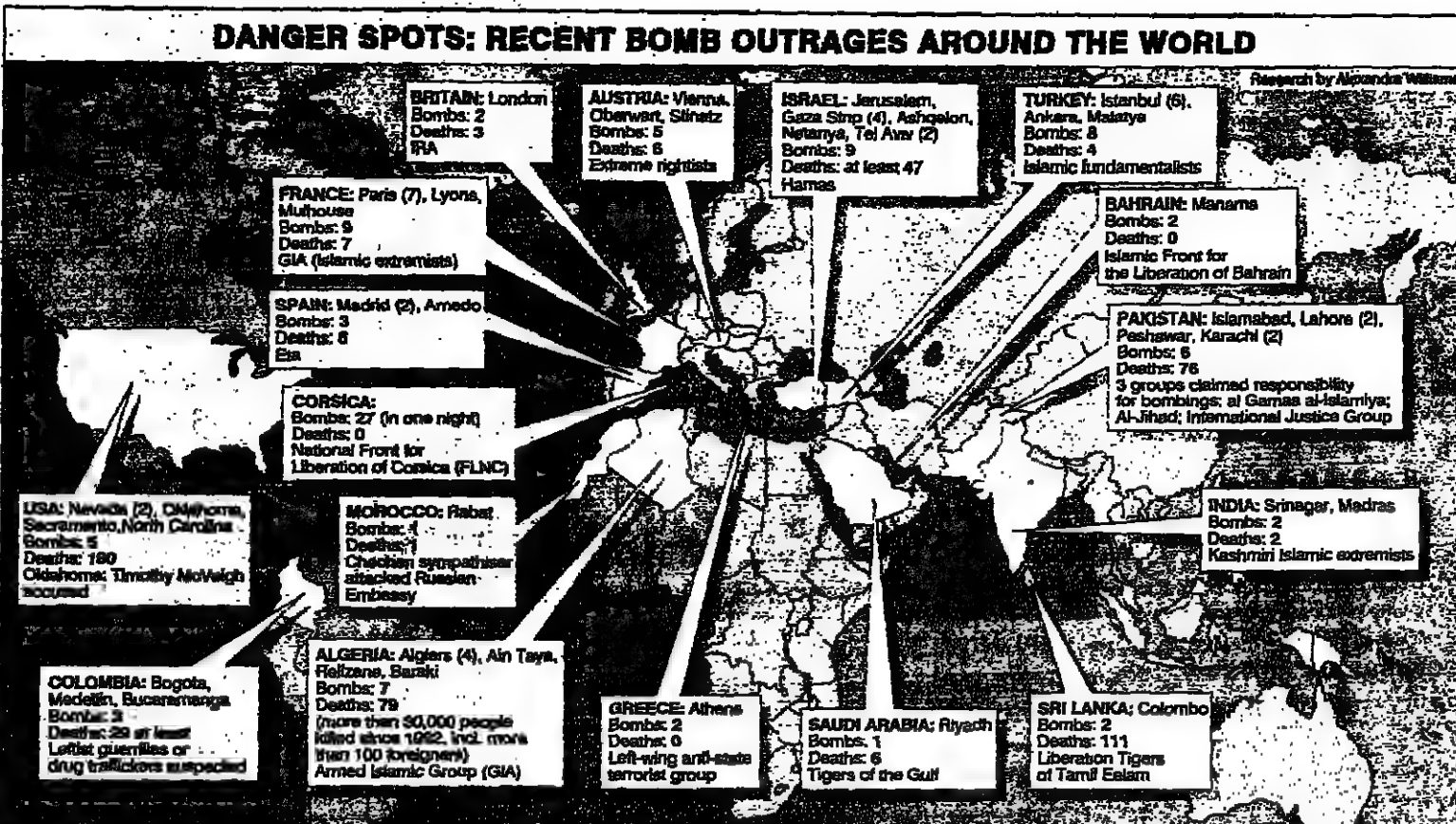
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Terror threat to tourism



By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AT LEAST 560 people have been killed by terrorist bombs around the world in the past 12 months, raising fears for the safety of international travellers and jeopardising the growth of travel and tourism, the world's biggest industry.

There have been at least 300 examples of terrorism in cities from Lahore to London since the start of 1995. Many attacks have gone almost unreported outside the countries in which they happened.

Now big business is beginning to take the problem of security for its travelling staff more seriously, especially in the wake of the recent IRA attacks in London and the bombs in Israel.

The Control Risks Group, which keeps a regular check on international terrorist attacks, has issued its clients with a list of ten things to do to avoid being caught in a bomb blast — and how to react if they are. Among its recommendations are: "Do not be

afraid of voicing your fears, no matter how ridiculous they may seem: no one will thank you if you keep quiet about something which turns out to be a bomb.

"Get down on the ground and cover as much exposed flesh as possible, particularly your face," it says. "Consider spending less time in certain locations than you might otherwise do. Consider staying in low-profile, discreet hotels."

Richard Fenning, head of business development for Control Risks, says: "In the past year or so there have been a large number of high-profile terrorist attacks, such as the Oklahoma bomb, the Tokyo nerve gas attacks, the Jerusalem bombings, the IRA ending its ceasefire and the attacks in Sri Lanka, which even deterred cricketers from playing there."

"The trick is for employers to mitigate what small risk there is and to make their employees feel confident when they travel."



Terrorist strike: a bomb attack in Israel on February 25

Adam Pote, of the Safe Travel Organisation, claims that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse."

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

Geoffrey Lipman, the president of the World Travel and Tourism Council, says that the danger to business people and tourists "has never been greater and seems likely to get worse."

Travellers, he adds, may not be a specific target, but could become caught up in random terrorist action. "The key is to maintain a high level of security awareness and a low profile," he says.

industry — now worth at least £2,000 billion a year to the world's economy — is deeply worried by the apparent growth in the number of major incidents.

"There appears to be a growing number of large-scale incidents," says Donna Hoffman, of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, which compiles detailed lists of every terrorist attack.

The centre helped in collecting details for the graphic (above), which lists only large or significant bombs and is by no means complete. It does not, for example, list the many small attacks by animal rights groups, internal domestic terror shootings, hijackings or kidnaps, nor does it show such horrors as the Tokyo subway system gas attack.

But it does show that the world is increasingly at risk from small groups of people determined to force their own views on the travelling public, regardless of the death and mayhem they may cause.

Brittany Ferries seeks help

By STEVE KEENAN

THE IMPACT of the fierce cross-Channel price war has forced Brittany Ferries to appeal to the French Government for financial help.

Of the five ferry companies operating from Cherbourg, Brittany has been the most vulnerable since the opening of the Channel Tunnel. The price war on Dover-Calais saw the cost of crossing the Channel fall by 20 per cent last

year, attracting hundreds of thousands of people to travel from Kent rather than the western ports.

Brittany lost more than £5 million in 1995, with passenger numbers down 4 per cent. For 1996, it has cut prices by an average 8 per cent and aligned fares with those from Dover — but the company is

still unlikely to move back into profit. Now it has asked its Government for tax relief, saying it is uncompetitive.

The company blames the price war, labour costs 30 per cent higher than Britain's and a welfare and benefits bill £10 million higher than arch-rival P&O European Ferries. It also earns only 10 per cent of revenue from duty-free, compared with 35 per cent at P&O.

Bid to save châteaux

FRANCE is to create a version of the National Trust to protect its crumbling châteaux, Steve Keenan writes.

More than 20,000 Britons annually pay the equivalent of a night in a five-star London hotel to stay in one of the hundreds of historic castles and homes in France.

But many châteaux that are not commercially run are up for sale, including the former homes of Voltaire and Zola;

others have fallen into disrepair. The sense of urgency has been heightened by reports that Michael Jackson is looking to buy a £3 million chateau; the French are aghast at the idea of an animal park or other EuroDisney-style excesses.

The French Government has now established a committee to study how a volunteer-based organisation can protect the châteaux.

Devon coast spared oilslick

By CAROL MIDDLELEY

SOUTHWESTERLY winds appear to have saved hoteliers in north Devon from catastrophe this summer in the wake of the Sea Empress oil spillage, but beaches and resorts in west Wales face a massive clean-up operation before they can welcome visitors.

As tourism executives yesterday weighed up the effects of the supertanker disaster near Milford Haven, it became clear that the oil which had been drifting south was being blown northwards again, away from north Devon's beaches.

Staff on the remote island of Lundy, which was hit by a sheen of oil last weekend, were also hoping that the wind had prevented further damage.

Thick black oil has, however, soaked 150 miles of the Welsh coastline, affecting the beaches at St David's, Broadhaven, Pembrokeshire, Tenby, Maswiler and Pwllheli. Locals who depend on tourism are pinning their hopes on the environmental agencies cleaning up the spillage within a matter of weeks.

Nigel Smith, of the North Devon Tourist Office, said: "We have had southwesterly winds gusting all weekend and they seem to have done the trick but we feel very sorry for our friends in Wales."

Ron Morrison Smith, chief executive of the tourism board in the West Country, where the industry is worth £3.5 billion each year, said: "There has been no panic, no rush to cancel bookings. Where there is a lurking danger, however, is in worldwide publicity. As news of this oil spillage reaches America and Canada people may have second thoughts about coming here for a holiday."

Emma Parke, the warden on Lundy, said: "We are still very worried that the wind might change direction again and put us back in the path of the oil but at the moment the situation is improving with far fewer oiled birds being rescued each day and no apparent toxic effect on marine life."

Hoteliers in Wales are still waiting to assess the effect of the damage on their business. Chris Osborne, manager of the Fourcroft hotel in Tenby which attracts more than 20,000 visitors, said: "Hoteliers have had very few cancellations although the spillage could affect bookings."

Carl Grainger, of Tourism South and West Wales, said Easter would be the appropriate time to assess the effects. "By then we will know if advanced bookings are living up to expectations."

ASKING holidays in France and Austria

with departures from several UK airports on Saturday, are available from Crystal (0181-399 5144). Prices range from £219 a person for a week's bed-and-breakfast accommodation, to £329, half-board or catered.

WEEKEND climbing courses, including lectures and practical rock-climbing, are being offered at the Youth Hostels Association Llangollen and Edale (Peak District) activity centres (01727 845047) for £86 a person.

SAVINGS of up to £440 a person are available from Kuoni (01306 742222) on Easter departures to Jamaica, flying on Air Jamaica's new scheduled service from Heathrow to Montego Bay, Jamaica, for a week's holiday start at £699.

CONNECTIONS

(0171-408 4449) offers a fortnight at a Kenya coast hotel half-board and return flights from £549 a person.

AN ATLANTIC cruise from Fort Lauderdale to Villafraia, via Madeira, Tangier, Gibraltar and Malaga, from April 9 to 23, is being offered by Royal Olympic Cruises (0171-723 6173) from £1,124 a person.

SHERPA Expeditions (0181-577 2717) is arranging a house party in Provence for a week from April 27 for £255 a person, including BA flights from Gatwick and organised entertainment in a 17th-century country house close to Luberon national park.

FOR the first two weeks in April, Queens Moat Houses is offering special Easter rates at its 80 UK hotels starting at £43 per person for two nights, or from £84 including dinner. Details: 0645-333-666.

THE 20-room Penbridge Court Hotel, west London, is cutting room prices by 15 per cent to £135.50 per night over Easter. Every guest will be given an Easter chocolate gift, in honour of the hotel's resident ginger cats, Spencer and Churchill. Details: 0171-229 9977.

THE Royal and Rembrandt Hotels in Evian, France, are offering free skiing, including all equipment and tuition, for one day of their three-night packages, which are available until March 17. Prices for two people for three nights start at £119.

FREGATA, a specialist in East European flights, has bargain fares to numerous destinations with reputable airlines. Examples: Sofia £237, Minsk £329, Prague £145, Budapest £135, Riga £246, Moscow £269, Kiev £259, Warsaw £166. Details: 0171-451 7000.

TORONTO return for £229 is being offered on scheduled flights from Heathrow on Saturdays until the end of March by Air Travel Advisory Bureau. Details: 0171-336 5000.

BRITISH Midland enters the Leeds-Paris route on March 31. Business tickets start at £314, with leisure fares priced at £119. Details: 0345 544554.

JERSEY European has extended its free ticket offer until the end of March.

SWIMMING

instructor Pierre Grunberg is holding a clinic on April 27 and 28 at the Romanyede Hotel, Egham, Surrey. Private lessons cost £40 or £15 in a group of up to six. Special three-night packages, which are available until March 17, are £70 per person per night including dinner. Details: 01784 470099.

Business-class passengers booking select flights to Northern Ireland or the Channel Islands qualify for a free economy-class ticket. Details: 0345 676676.

BRITISH Airways Express starts flying Gatwick-Cologne on March 3 with an offer of triple Air Miles for Executive Club members paying the full fare. Details: 0148-8974000.

AIR Portugal's special £90 excursion fare to Faro (Algarve) can be combined with a £20 three-day car rental. Book by March 16 for travel up until March 28. Details: 0171-828 0262.

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St Kitts attacks crime

FROM TONY DAVE IN ST KITT'S

THE British police chief called in to reorganise the force on the Caribbean island of St Kitts, where drug-running and armed robberies have damaged the paradise image, has made a dramatic appeal to the public for information.

Commissioner Brian Reynolds issued a warning of the harm that will be inflicted on the holiday island if the use of illicit weapons, drug dealing and burglaries continue. The former British colony attracted more than 200,000 visitors last year.

"If crime rises, it will affect tourism, our number one industry," he said. "It will not just be big hotels which suffer but fishermen who won't be able to sell their catch, taxi drivers, everyone."

Commissioner Reynolds, formerly deputy chief constable of Thames Valley Police,

made his appeal as more tourists, stores and petrol stations became victims of armed robberies while the two main political parties blamed each other for the breakdown in law and order.

This week's issue of *The Labour Spokesman*, official voice of the ruling party, claims that St Kitts and the neighbouring island of Nevis are haunted by "the legacy of drugs, gun-running and money laundering left by the regime" of the People's Action Movement (PAM), which was voted out of office last year.

PAM's newspaper, *The Worker*, hit back this week, blaming the rise in robberies on "the incompetent and dishonest" Labour Government.

Commissioner Reynolds said: "We are overcoming the problems and are on the verge of attracting quality developments to the island. The Sandals chain of resorts has bought a property here and the company which developed the award-winning Four Seasons resort on Nevis owns 1,100 acres."

Leading figures in the tourist trade insist that crimes are rare. Art Keusch, owner of Orley's Plantation Inn, said: "The occasional problem here gets blown out of all proportion. If it happened in London or New York it would not warrant a mention."

Dwyer Astaphan, St Kitts's Tourism Minister, said: "We are overcoming the problems and are on the verge of attracting quality developments to the island. The Sandals chain of resorts has bought a property here and the company which developed the award-winning Four Seasons resort on Nevis owns 1,100 acres."

Dwyer Astaphan, St Kitts's Tourism Minister, said: "We are overcoming the problems and are on the verge of attracting quality developments to the island. The Sandals chain of resorts has bought a property here and the company which developed the award-winning Four Seasons resort on Nevis owns 1,100 acres."

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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Why Japan is no longer such a safe bet

BOOKS 40, 41

Imogen Stubbs on the lighter side of Sylvia Plath

SPORT 42-48

Sir Stanley recalls memories of better times at Yeovil

GEOFF BROWN
REVIEWS THE
LATEST FILMS
Arts 37-39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 1996



Orange, the third largest mobile phone network, said yesterday that its planned flotation will value the company between £2.2 billion and £2.45 billion, a range that is about 15 per cent below brokers' estimates. (writes

Eric Reguly) Hans Snook, Orange managing director, left, and Graham Howe, financial director, denied that the valuation was reduced in response to more competitive rival digital tariffs. The company expects 325

million shares to be offered at a price somewhere between 175p to 205p, raising between £530 million and £623 million. The global offer, led by Kleinwort Benson and Goldman Sachs, is scheduled to close on March

26, with trading starting the next day. Snook is to receive share options equal to two times his salary of £400,000 in the first year, falling to one times salary in the second and third years. Pennington, page 27

Spottiswoode condemns Gas service as 'atrocious'

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE EXPECTED clash between British Gas and the industry watchdog over pricing controls moved a step closer yesterday as Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, delivered a series of tough messages to the beleaguered company.

Ms Spottiswoode, who said that complaints to Ofgas had risen by 46 per cent last year and that the company's service in some areas was "truly atrocious", confirmed last week's pessimistic view by Richard Giordano, chairman of British Gas, that the two parties were so far apart on the pricing formula for TransCo that a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was very likely. She said: "Both we and British Gas will be surprised if it doesn't go to the MMC."

Ms Spottiswoode, who signalled at yesterday's presentation of Ofgas's annual report that she had some sympathy for the take-or-pay contract problems of British Gas, said the company would be forced by competition to improve its service and reduce its prices.

Otherwise, she said, customers would follow the example of households in the South West, who are abandoning British Gas in substantial numbers. Labour seized on her warning, saying that increased efficiency in the privatised utilities usually led to a poorer service. Ian McCartney, the party's Employment spokesman, said: "It is typical of the behaviour of privatised utilities that increasing efficiency has led to two more directors helping themselves to pay rises in the boardroom, and 22,000 less staff actually helping customers."

But Ms Spottiswoode conceded that in the last two months of 1995 there had been a decline in the rate of complaints, which had largely revolved around billing, and that the company's efforts, orchestrated by Roy Gardner, its finance director, had been impressive.

The gas regulator also gave a warning that British Gas Energy, the soon-to-be segregated company that will supply gas

and which will be saddled with the costly take-or-pay legacy, will not be able to wash its hands of domestic customers. She said that to quit supplying areas it would have to provide a satisfactory mechanism to transfer customers to a rival. British Gas has still not unveiled a tariff package for the experiment in the South West, the start of which has been delayed to April 29, raising doubts about its interest in the area.

But Ms Spottiswoode, who also outlined a bond provision that gas suppliers will have to make to fund gas supplies in the event of a company going bust, also said that she believed British Gas Energy could be a viable operation, and would not necessarily be merely a dumping ground for the troublesome contracts while TransCo moved ahead. The company looked viable across a range of scenarios and the Morecambe Bay development would provide a substantial measure of support, she said.

On the issue of intensive doorstep selling practices in the South West, Ms Spottiswoode said that Ofgas had written to Swob Gas, the company identified in a number of consumer complaints, but that since such marketing activities were not illegal they were not covered by the gas suppliers' licences. Rivals to British Gas will apply for those licences tomorrow to participate in the experiment in the South West.



Spottiswoode: some sympathy

MPs to demand OFT inquiry into Exchange

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Commons Treasury Select Committee is expected to ask the Office of Fair Trading to again investigate charges that the Stock Exchange is anti-competitive because a handful of the largest member firms dictate policy. The move towards an OFT investigation follows the appearance before MPs yesterday of Michael Lawrence, the former chief executive of the London Stock Exchange, who was abruptly dismissed from his £342,000 post last month. Mr Lawrence told the influential Commons committee that he believed his dramatic sacking was due to opposition by the City's leading market-making houses to his proposed introduction of an electronic

"order matching" system of share trading. Mr Lawrence, who gave evidence for more than two hours, specifically named BZW, the securities arm of Barclays Bank, Smith New Court, now absorbed by Merrill Lynch, and SBC Warburg, as the main opponents of his reforms. When pushed by Diane Abbott, Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Mr Lawrence indicated that BZW and Merrill Lynch were the most vocal in their opposition. Clive Betts, another Labour committee member, asked Mr Lawrence if he would have kept his post if John Kemp-Welch, the chairman of the Stock Exchange and a former senior member of Cazenove, had stood by him. "I am

certain," replied Mr Lawrence. Committee sources indicated last night that, in the light of this reply, Mr Kemp-Welch is likely to be invited to appear before MPs again. In his evidence to the Treasury committee, headed by Sir Tom Arnold, Mr Lawrence said that as far as he was concerned "the reform programme I led had the support of the chairman of the Exchange and of the Board. As late as November 1995, the chairman assured me of his support for the trading reforms and the board, despite lobbying, fully supported the proposals. Mr Lawrence continued: "I received no warning at any time that I did not enjoy their support although we were all aware of the opposition of certain market-makers. My

last discussion with the chairman was on December 22." On January 4, just before a board meeting, Mr Lawrence said the chairman and Ian Saher, deputy chairman and a director of SGST (Investment Advisers), the French investment bank, "advised me that I had lost the board's confidence and the purpose of the meeting was to secure my removal from office". Last night the Stock Exchange denied the suggestion that Mr Lawrence's high profile sacking, which has privately caused grave concern to MPs on all sides of the Treasury committee, was the result of a cartel of self-interested members. A spokeswoman said: "It was a loss of confidence built up over a period of time by an accumu-

lation of issues and it was a decision of the board which represents a wide range of interests in the market." SBC Warburg said: "We are not opposed to reform and this was not about one person or the personality. Our concern was that we felt the process was being pushed through too fast without proper analysis and with insufficient consultation with the members. It is clear from the responses sent into the Exchange by other institutions that they felt the same way and that we were being railroaded." Mr Lawrence, however, was firm in his view yesterday that if self-interest groups were allowed to impose their will on the rest of the market then the future for the Stock Exchange was bleak.

Yarrow wins frigate contract

By ROSS TIERMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WORK will begin today on the first of three Type 23 frigates ordered by the Ministry of Defence from the General Electric Company's Yarrow yard in a £400 million package yesterday. The order will save the jobs of 200 workers among the 650 put on notice of redundancy last month. But Vosper Thornycroft, the Southampton warship-builder undercut by GEC in the bidding contest, said it would have to shed 450 workers. The order comes after a cut-throat competition between Britain's two remaining warship builders to assemble the last ships in the current generation of anti-submarine frigates. GEC Marine, which also

owns the VSEL yard at Barrow, was determined to keep Vosper from making a return to the construction of larger ships. With two frigates for Malaysia nearing completion, the yard needed the Royal Navy orders to maintain its workflow, despite a recent order for three offshore patrol vessels for Brunel. Murray Easton, Yarrow's managing director, said: "It was a very tough competition based on very hard-fought commercial lines and what it does establish Yarrow Shipbuilders in a pre-eminent position both within the UK and in the very high priority of world-class shipbuilders." James Arbuthnot, the De-

fence Procurement Minister, said both yards had submitted high-quality tenders. "The prices offered by Yarrow Shipbuilders, however, were significantly lower. Our decision has been reached on the basis of best value for money for the taxpayer." Shares in Vosper slumped 41p to 435p after the announcement. Martin Jay, managing director, said the company would have to make 300 redundancies this year and would not renew the contracts of 150 short-term workers. He added that Vosper remained strong, with a £400 million order book. Analysts said the company was likely to face a £3.5 million redundancy charge.



Easton: hard-fought contest

Yorkshire Water counts the cost of supply hitches

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

YORKSHIRE WATER yesterday disclosed the cost of its supply problems of last year, when the company, which had to mount huge tankering operations, made a provision of £47 million. With company chiefs due soon before the inquiry into the drought shortages, Yorkshire said that £22 million had been spent on tankering, which, at its height, had 700 tankers a day coming from the Tees to water treatment centres in Yorkshire. The rest of the money was spent on emergency pumping, standpipes and advertising to encourage the region's 1.7

million households to use water sparingly. Tankering ended on January 13, but hosepipe bans remain and prohibition of unnecessary use of water — such as for car cleaning — operates in many parts of the region. Last year, Yorkshire Water said that it was putting an extra £100 million into pipeline investments as consumers and MPs criticised its leakage rate, which has been measured at 33 per cent. The company says that no more tankering will be necessary this year even if rainfall is as little as last year. Yesterday, it said that emer-

gency pumping facilities that took water from rivers were being dismantled as a measure of confidence that they will not be needed this year. Reservoir levels in Yorkshire are running at about 50 per cent, it said. Ofwat said that customers would not be affected by the £47 million charge because the company must adhere to Ofwat price controls. Two weeks ago, Yorkshire caused an outcry when it announced a price rise of 5.6 per cent — the maximum allowable under Ofwat regulations. Pennington, page 27

RJB hits coalface problems at superpit

By GEORGE SIVELL

RJB, the coal mining company which paid £815 million for the English part of British Coal, has struck geological problems at Astorby, the British Coal superpit which soaked up £400 million of public money before being sold.

Yesterday Richard Budge, the RJB chief executive and founder, wrote off the £78 million value of Astorby in his balance sheet and agreed a new business plan for the pit with unions and workers. RJB is to try mining two short production coalfaces of 70 metres width instead of the long coalface of 150 metres being attempted at the moment. This will give RJB time to reassess the medium and long-term viability of the pit over the next six to nine months. The present plan avoids redundancies. Astorby was built after a planning application by British Coal for three separate pits in Leicestershire was rejected but lies on the very edge of the coal deposits making mining much more difficult.

In a trading statement to the Stock Exchange, RJB said that increased production elsewhere in the group had made up for Astorby's second-half losses of £16.3 million and that profits for 1995 would still be in line with market forecasts. The announcement left RJB shares down 14p to 527p. RJB also revealed that its £368 million debt pile raised in December 1994 to acquire the English part of British Coal had fallen to £55 million at December 31, 1995, and that it has paid £12 million of the deferred £117 million due to the Government.

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Another move on pension splitting

By ANNE ASHWORTH

NEW moves will be made today to allow pensions to be split when couples divorce, in spite of Government objections to reform, based on an estimated £200 million cost of the measure.

Baroness Hollis of Heigham, Labour social security spokeswoman in the Lords, will this afternoon table an amendment to the Family Law Bill requiring that pensions be divided upon divorce. Lady Hollis, the prime mover in the campaign for a fairer deal for wives who divorce in middle life, expects all-party support for the proposal, even from peers opposed to the rest of the Bill, which introduces divorce after a year.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, made clear his opposition to pension-splitting last week. Matrimonial lawyers, the pensions industry and the Confederation of British Industry consider splitting fairer and simpler than division at retirement, as laid out in the Pensions Act 1995.

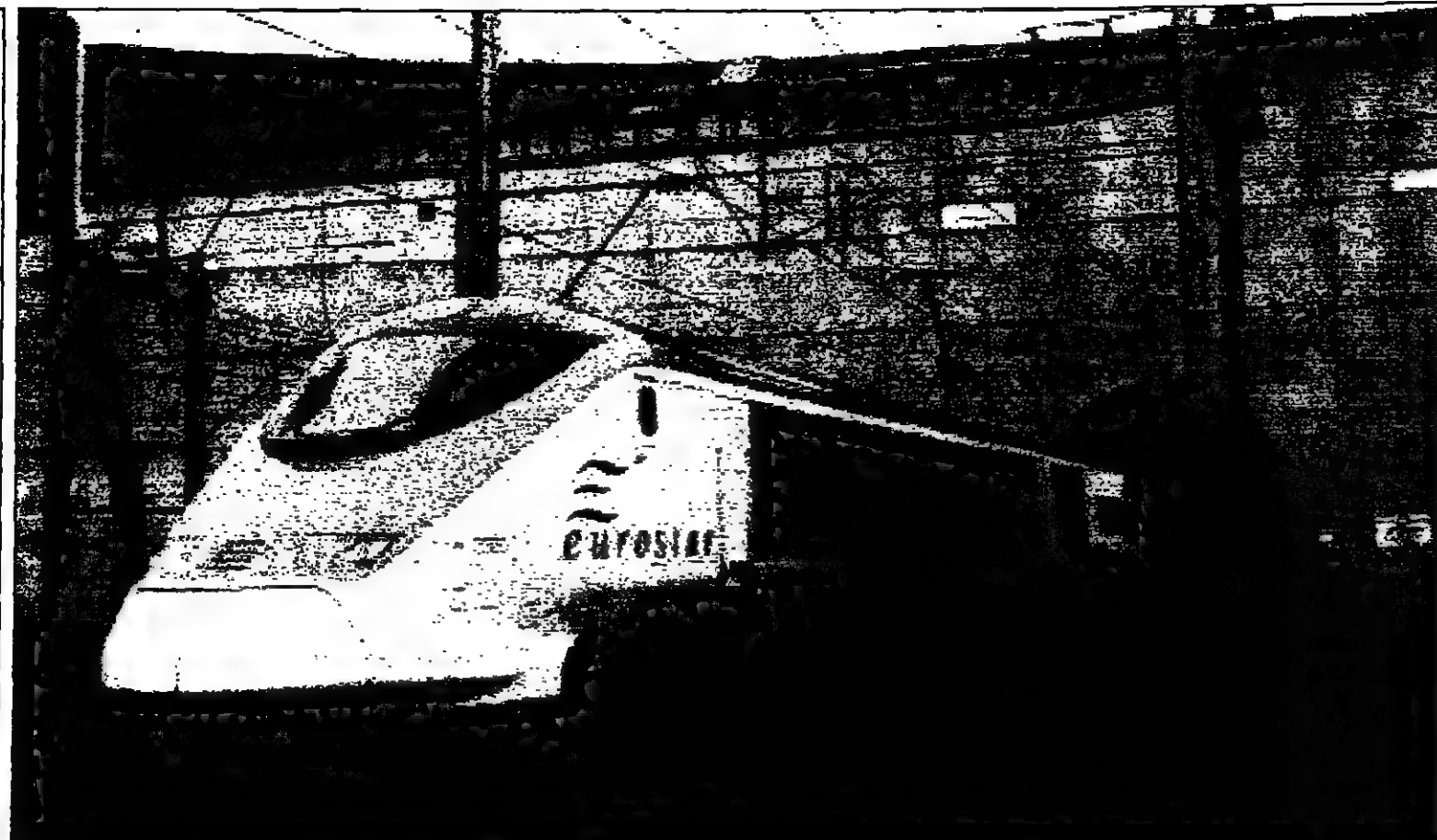
This week, the Department of Social Security produced figures showing that pension-splitting would cost £600 million, if all couples, married, divorced or separated, opted to divide their pensions. Splitting for divorced couples only would cost £200 million by the 2037.

Yesterday, Lady Hollis said: "The suggestion that there would be irretrievable political pressure to allow all couples to split their pensions ignores all the other advantages that married couples enjoy over those who have divorced, the major financial advantage being the lower cost of running one household."

She said: "The Government continues to accept that, up to 2020, tax credit and benefit and Legal Aid savings would cancel each other out. Any figures beyond 2020 are so dependent on what happens to the tax, benefit and pensions systems as to be meaningless."

Lord Mackay has called for further research and cited technical difficulties, one of which centres on public sector unfunded schemes for civil servants, in which there are no easily-divisible assets.

Opponents of pension-splitting say that it leaves divorced couples in a more tax-advantageous position than married couples.



London & Continental's first priority will be to turn round the Eurostar service, which is costing the taxpayer £200 million a year

Virgin consortium wins £3bn Tunnel rail link contract

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SIR GEORGE YOUNG will today announce in the Commons that London & Continental Railways, a consortium including Virgin Group and National Express, has been awarded the £3 billion contract to build the Channel Tunnel rail link.

The decision, which is two months behind schedule, follows months of tortuous negotiations between Department of Transport officials and the consortium and paves the way for the biggest rail transport project in Britain this century. The consortium is expected to begin work on the 68-mile

link through East London and Kent next year, with completion by 2003. It will allow Eurostar trains to speed at 186 mph from London to the entrance of the Channel Tunnel, slashing half an hour off journey times between the British and French capitals.

The deal, the largest ever struck under the private finance initiative, also gives London & Continental responsibility for running Eurostar on the existing 70mph Railtrack line, along the route of the link. St Pancras station, the main London terminal for the link, and Water-

loo International. The Government is expected to inject up to £1 billion of taxpayers' money into the project.

London & Continental has seen off competition from three rival bidders for the contract and appears to have won mainly because of the air and bus transport experience of Virgin and National Express. The other shareholders are Ove Arup, Bechtel, Sir William Halcrow and SG Warburg.

London & Continental's first priority will be to turn round the Eurostar service, which is costing the taxpayer £200 million a year because it has

failed to attract forecast numbers of passengers.

Three million passengers used the service last year, its first full year of operation, compared with the six million forecast as recently as 1994. European Passenger Services, the Government-owned company that operates Eurostar in partnership with the French and Belgian national railways, has been criticised for poor marketing of the service and inadequate ticket availability.

It has aimed its service at the business market and has failed to attract the mass market business it needs to fill the

trains, which each have as many seats as two Jumbo Jets.

Although the Paris service has picked up, the Brussels service has been running at about one-third capacity.

There is also still poor understanding of the difference between Eurostar, the capital-to-capital passenger service, and Eurotunnel, which operates Le Shuttle drive-on car trains between Folkestone and Calais.

London & Continental is expected to launch a massive overhaul of Eurostar advertising and ticket distribution when it takes over on April 1.

Japanese lender has £2bn debts

FROM FRANKLIN HOODSON IN TOKYO

EQUION, one of Japan's largest consumer credit companies, has filed for voluntary liquidation with estimated debts of ¥300 billion (£2 billion), heightening fears of further failures in the troubled financial sector.

Equion was set up in 1959 as an independent consumer loan company. During the "bubble economy" of the late 1980s, it aggressively increased its lending, to property developers and golf course construction firms. When the bubble burst, the company was plunged into difficulties. About 90 per cent of its loans cannot be recovered. In the year to March 31, 1995, Equion suffered losses of ¥16.8 billion. Last July, its shares were withdrawn from Tokyo's over-the-counter market.

Equion's liquidation comes after its main lenders withdrew support. Among the lending institutions are Sumitomo Trust, with an exposure of ¥25.4 billion, Daiichi Kangyo Bank (¥23.5 billion), Yasuda Trust (¥17.4 billion) and Mizuho Trust (¥15.9 billion). Hokkaido Tokai Shokoku Bank, with exposure of ¥25.4 billion, is already in a perilous position with numerous other bad loans outstanding.

Equion's failure has led to fear of a chain reaction among credit firms. By some estimates, half of the Japanese non-banks' lending is non-performing.

Hanson sells part of Cavenham for \$500m

By ALASTAIR MURRAY

HANSON kept its £1.5 billion disposal plan on track yesterday with the sale of part of Cavenham, its timber subsidiary, for \$500 million.

Hanson said that it had sold about 650,000 acres of timber in Louisiana and Mississippi and Cavenham's four owned and operated sawmills to Weyerhaeuser, the US forest products company. In total, Cavenham owns about 1.75 million acres of timber throughout the US. Hanson said the disposal of the rest of the timber company was progressing well.

William Landuyt, Hanson Industries chief executive, said: "This puts us ahead of schedule and negotiations are continuing for the sale of the



Lord Hanson: on track

balance of the southern assets and Cavenham's northwest timberland." In 1995 profits at Cavenham dropped 19 per cent to £95 million and the company was earmarked for

sale as a non-core business at the end of last year.

Hanson is keen to make a prompt disposal of Cavenham to help reduce the company's gearing, which stands at about 130 per cent after the £2.5 billion purchase last year of Eastern Group, the electricity company. The group, led by Lord Hanson, is aiming to raise a further £500 million by a public sell-off of part of its stake in Surlingham Properties of the US.

Hanson has been under pressure to reduce its debt after announcing that it would split into four separate companies. The danger plans have provoked fears over the prospective debt positions of the new companies. Hanson's shares closed unchanged at 186p last night.

TUC seeks input from business

By PHILIP BARNETT INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH business is being asked by the TUC's trade unions to join talks on European-style minimum working standards before the possible election of a Labour government.

The unions want to examine ways to establish minimum standards on a range of issues, including job security, access to education and training, minimum wages, union representation and the general extension of European-style social partnership.

The TUC is contacting the CBI, the Institute of Directors, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Institute of Management and the Institute of Personnel and Development.

The move, supported by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is a clear attempt to build upon agreements on minimum standards reached by companies such as Rover — and the increasing readiness of companies to set up European works councils despite the Government's opposition from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty. The IoD will today warn politicians against "meddling" with corporate governance. Tim Melville-Ross, IoD director-general, will tell a business conference: "Company direction is dangerous territory for politicians."

ABB plans UK expansion

FROM PHILIP PANGLOS IN WARSAW

ABB Asea Brown Boveri, the Swiss-Swedish power generation and electrical engineering company, plans further expansion in the UK, both organically and through acquisition, after productivity improvements and cost reductions helped the group to a 46 per cent advance in full-year profits.

A strong demand for industrial products, cost reductions and productivity improve-

ments helped ABB buck harsh trading conditions in many of its markets with the huge jump in pre-tax profits to \$2.1 billion in the year to December 31, on turnover ahead 14 per cent to \$33.7 billion.

Percy Barnevik, ABB chairman and chief executive, said the results were boosted by continued expansion in the fast-growing Asian markets and a healthy improvement in

America. Mr Barnevik, who is optimistic on prospects, said: "The UK had another strong year of improvement in profit." Eric Drewery, chief executive of ABB UK, which employs about 13,000 people, anticipates further expansion in Britain through acquisition and organic growth.

ABB ended 1995 with net cash of \$2 billion, up \$300 million on the previous year.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia	1.50	1.50
Austria	16.76	16.76
Belgium	40.08	40.08
Canada	2.22	2.22
Cyprus	0.748	0.748
Denmark	8.47	8.47
Finland	7.51	7.51
France	6.10	6.10
Germany	2.36	2.36
Greece	389.00	389.00
Hong Kong	12.55	12.55
Ireland	1.02	1.02
Italy	5.1700	5.1700
Japan	165.10	165.10
Malta	0.990	0.990
Netherlands	2.42	2.42
New Zealand	2.44	2.44
Norway	4.76	4.76
Portugal	204.00	204.00
Spain	16.50	16.50
Sweden	10.93	10.93
Switzerland	1.98	1.98
Turkey	898.10	898.10
USA	1.537	1.537

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in pursuance of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at 11.00 am on Monday the 18th day of March 1996 at the offices of the Insolvency Practitioner, Messrs. J. & W. BRERLEY, 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 1LW, for the purpose of having an account laid before them of the affairs of the company and of the Insolvency Practitioner's report on the company's affairs and of the Insolvency Practitioner's recommendations in relation to the company's affairs and of the Insolvency Practitioner's recommendations in relation to the company's affairs and of the Insolvency Practitioner's recommendations in relation to the company's affairs.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in pursuance of Section 170 of the Companies Act 1985, that the following companies have been placed in liquidation by the Court under Section 170 of the Companies Act 1985: **THE COMPANY**, a company incorporated in England, having its registered office at **100 Broad Street, London EC2M 1LW**, and having its principal place of business at **100 Broad Street, London EC2M 1LW**, and having its principal place of business at **100 Broad Street, London EC2M 1LW**.

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PPI 'knew about' £400,000 transfer

ACCOUNTANTS working for Polly Peck International (PPI) were aware that £400,000 was being transferred to an account in Switzerland, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. The payment in favour of Unipac, a PPI subsidiary, was recorded internally, but no reason for the transfer was registered. Mark Bennet, a forensic accountant, made reference to the payment while giving evidence in the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, 59, former chairman of South Audley Management, who denies handling nearly £400,000 in funds allegedly stolen by Asil Nadir, former PPI chairman.

Mr Bennet was being questioned about an entry in the PPI nominal ledger on a day in October 1989. Replying to Geoffrey Robertson, QC, for the defence, he said the treasury department had registered what money was paid and to whom, but made no record of why. There was no entry in the ledger to suggest the money came back from Unipac, he added. Mr Justice Tucker adjourned the trial until Tuesday.

Regulator challenged

THE electricity regulator faces court action over his controls on ScottishPower, one of Scotland's two generating and distribution companies. ScottishPower yesterday lodged a High Court application for a judicial review of Professor Stephen Littlechild's decision not to apply to it pricing conditions that govern Scottish Hydro, which successfully challenged the electricity regulator's pricing controls after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry.

Gilts show mixed result

THE Bank of England's auction of £3 billion of 6 per cent gilts due 2021 found bids of 1.48 times the total on sale. This was regarded by the market as a fairly successful result but there was some consternation at the large gap between the highest accepted yield and the average. This could suggest that the Bank was forced to accept some low bids in order to cover the auction. However, it may be that there was sufficient demand but difficulty in judging a price for the stock.

Bass shake-up at the top

BASS announced a shake-up in its senior management yesterday with the appointment of Ian Napier, a chief executive of Bass Breweries, and the departure from the company of Jerry Fowden, the current brewer's chief operating officer. Mr Napier will continue in his position as group human resources director but will relinquish his executive responsibility for the leisure division. Bass described Mr Fowden's departure as "very unfortunate".

Treaty limit exceeded

BRITAIN'S government deficit totalled 6.9 per cent of gross domestic product in 1994, far above the Maastricht treaty criterion of a maximum of 3 per cent, according to the Central Statistical Office. The general government gross debt outstanding was 50.4 per cent of GDP in 1994, well below the Maastricht reference level of 60 per cent. In August, the deficit was 6.1 per cent of GDP; debt was 50.5 per cent. In 1993, the figures were 7.8 per cent and 48.5 per cent.

Bank home loans ahead

NET mortgage lending by the leading banks increased by 7.3 per cent in January, giving an encouraging start to the year. Seasonally adjusted figures published yesterday by the British Bankers' Association on behalf of banks accounting for 34 per cent of total gross lending and 45 per cent of net mortgage lending, showed that net lending increased from a rise of £523 million in December to a rise of £564 million in January.

Gent maintains interim

SR GENT, the clothing manufacturer, is maintaining the interim dividend at 1p after returning profits almost unchanged at £2.8 million before tax for the six months to the end of December, compared with £2.7 million. Turnover from continuing activities advanced 7 per cent to £73.6 million from £68.8 million. The company said the rise in underlying profits endorsed its strategy of concentration on garment manufacturing.

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Hong Kong	£4.34	£8.77	51%
Japan	£2.34	£5.23	55%
Australia	£7.16	£9.94	28%
Brazil	£1.75	£3.40	49%
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Huge cha
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to £67m

Capital
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dispute with U

PR disasters in water and gas □ The future is flotation □ Research in the champagne style

We all need to be loved

THE various woes of British Gas and Yorkshire Water are quite different, but they are, in both cases, self-inflicted. Both companies, along with a third, South West Water, have managed to provide an object lesson in how to destroy a company's reputation as a public utility.

From Yorkshire Water's anguished bleatings, one might suspect that global warming or some awful tragedy in the upper atmosphere had transplanted the climate of Death Valley or Abu Dhabi to the Yorkshire Dales. True, the company has yet to poison large numbers of customers, a trick that South West has managed not once, but twice, once in public hands and once in private, and what little water there is in Yorkshire has not been tipped into the sea.

Yorkshire Water has, however, fallen in public esteem at least as far as South West, and arguably further. This is a difficult trick in public relations terms, because its performance is probably not that far behind the rest of the water companies. Yorkshire loses, depending on what measure you use, 33 or 26 per cent of its supplies between the reservoir and the tap, not significantly worse than others in the industry.

Last summer it was hampered by a local geographical quirk that meant that the traditionally

wettest areas, where reservoirs had not previously been deemed necessary, were the driest. Supplies could not be switched across the county because of the poor state of the pipes. An apparently viable plan to bring water in from the Kielder Dam, in neighbouring Northumbrian territory, came to nothing.

But however hard the company spin doctors insist, quite rightly, that not a pipe has run dry in Yorkshire, the public perception is quite the opposite. Such a perception is as difficult to turn round as a supertanker — just ask British Gas. The number of householders left shivering in the cold this winter was fairly small — but public perception, again, suggests the opposite.

Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, has now stated the blindingly obvious, a fact appreciated even within British Gas itself. Bad service means lost customers, both for gas supply and for maintenance and servicing.

British Gas's true woes, of course, lie with the North Sea cable-pay contracts, which have nothing to do with its relationship with the customers.

However, because of this low public esteem, it has proved impossible for the Government to bail the company out.

Here is the clearest parallel with Yorkshire Water. Demerger was forced on British Gas, ideally leaving all liabilities with one half of the company, because otherwise the shareholders would have had to suffer through lower dividends. Ian Byatt, the water regulator, has also made clear that Yorkshire shareholders should foot the bill, both for spending on pipeline repairs and on compensation payments. There are times when popularity has its benefits.

Orange alert for phone price war

ORANGE came out of nowhere less than two years ago to become, with about 440,000 subscribers at the last count, the country's third-largest mobile phone network. That network is taking on digital customers at a faster rate than Vodafone and Cellnet, its older and larger rivals, and, unlike them, has



managed to establish a strong brand image with its "the future is bright, the future is Orange" catchphrase. Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace are so pleased with Orange's prospects that next month's flotation has become the most hyped offering of the year. Punters, they believe, are lined up around the world.

Prospective investors might want to consider the evolving state of the industry before taking a bite. Vodafone and Cellnet are now putting out the message that the great mobile phone party is over. They have been surprisingly tolerant of Orange's youthful abandon, but now that the youngster has grown up a bit, they feel the urge to impose some discipline. On

April 1, only five days after Orange's shares are scheduled to start trading on the Nasdaq market and on the London Stock Exchange, Vodafone's lower digital tariffs come into effect.

Vodafone claims that the new prices are only 5 per cent higher than Orange's and that the price differential is worth it because its coverage is more extensive. In the same month, the company will launch a £20 million advertising blitz in an effort to stem the flow of customers to Orange. Cellnet, which more or less copies Vodafone's every move, is bound to follow suit.

We are seeing the start of a marketing and price war that was not supposed to arrive for another few years, given the strong growth still available. Orange has not changed its tariffs since the service was launched in April 1994, but, as competitors drop prices, it may have to follow suit. If so, break-even point and the first dividends are pushed further out.

A tacit admission that Orange is nervous about the competition was the setting of the flotation value at between £2.2 billion and

£2.45 billion, some 15 per cent less than brokers' estimated valuations. Orange, it appears, is quietly preparing for war.

Nice work if you can get it

YOU are a senior executive in a large money-management firm with responsibility for increasing performance, revenue and profitability. A letter to the editor of this column opens.

Wrong, but never mind. Enclosed is an invitation, full price £1,300 but £1,200 to you, it says, to the Hotel Martinez in Cannes this June for two days of, um, research into fund management. It sounds like hell. High on the list of attractions are "Champagne round-tables to increase business interaction", a gala dinner and plenty of cocktail parties. The "full-day workshops to really focus on the key issues" are, quite rightly, described as "optional". Why waste time on the key issues, when you could be at a cocktail party?

It gets worse. The delegate is offered a "multi-stream, à la

carte format" that allows you to "create your own ideal conference agenda". Take a note, Miss Smith: top of the agenda is, oh, a cocktail party or two, then we'll have a couple of those Champagne things, and let's not forget the gala dinner.

Who on earth goes on these extraordinary junkies? More than 300 senior fund management executives at the last one, in Montreux, a fine place to racket up the expense account in a country where even the snow has to be paid for by the foot.

So if you work in fund management and the boss mysteriously disappears on June 19, you know where to find him.

Pit provision

ASFORDBY, a small town between Leicester and Merton, Mowbray, always seemed a daft place to build a super-pit, being situated on the very edge of what may yet turn out to be a halfway decent coalfield. British Coal sank the best part of £400 million into it. New King Coal, aka Richard Budge, now has his doubts, and has written its value down to zero. If he does succeed at Asfordby, yesterday's £78 million provision will start feeding back into profit. That would be another master stroke from the man they all said paid too much for British Coal.

Huge charge pushes BICC to £67m loss

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BICC, the cables and construction group, announced full-year losses of £67 million yesterday after confirming it was taking exceptional charges totalling £176 million.

The exceptional items include an £82 million charge for restructuring in the cable division and a £78 million loss on the sale of Clarke Homes, its unprofitable housebuilding division, which was sold to Westbury Homes for £61 million.

Operating profits fell by 16 per cent to £150 million, while the dividend was cut from 14.6p to 12.5p. BICC had already announced most of the bad news to the market and the share price rose 7p to 297p after the company said it expected improved results from the cable division this year.

BICC shed about 1,000 jobs from its cabling division last year but warned that with demand in Germany still weak the company would consider making further cuts. The company blamed a fall in demand for cable systems after privatisation and deregulation in the electricity sector, as well as a rise in raw material prices, for its difficulties. The cable divi-

sions made an operating profit of £129 million, a fall of 4 per cent on last year.

Profits in Balfour Beatty, the construction division, fell 58 per cent to £18 million in the weak UK construction market. BICC also said a net charge of £5 million after the delay in the completion of the Heathrow Express project caused by a tunnel collapse.

The property division made sales of £47 million last year, after BICC's earlier announcement that it was looking to dispose of £100 million of assets. The company also took a £10 million charge to cover losses caused by the weak market and the company's desire to accelerate disposals.

BICC expects to learn today whether it has won the £2.8 billion contract to build the Channel Tunnel rail link. The company bid as part of a consortium against another led by the Virgin group. BICC said that even if it failed to win, it expected to gain some cabling and electrification work. The dividend will be payable on July 1.

Tempos, page 28

Capital Centres surprises

DONALD GORDON, chairman of Capital Shopping Centres that operates several regional centres, including Lakeside in Thurrock, Essex, and the MetroCentre at Gateshead, yesterday delivered an upbeat statement on prospects as he unveiled markedly better than expected results for the year to December 31 (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Pre-tax profits rose to £48.4 million, compared with £28.1 million in the eight-month period from flotation to the end of 1994. Net property income rose to £51.3 million (£30.6 million). Mr Gordon said year-on-year sales growth had continued into 1995. "It has been an encouraging start to the year."

The final dividend, due May 8, is down from 5.25p to 4p, making a total of 7.5p. Earnings per share rose from 5.25p to 7.5p.

Losses on the decline at Nynex

NYNEX CableComms, the second-largest cable company, says it is close to breaking even as it gains TV and telephony subscribers (Eric Reguly writes).

Nicholas Mearns-Smith, chief financial officer, yesterday said he is "hopeful" that the company will achieve positive operating cash flow in the current financial year. Of the dozen or so largest cable operators, only Videotron and General Cable have positive cash flow.

The forecast came as Nynex, 67 per cent owned by Nynex Corp of New York, a regional phone company, reported a pre-tax loss of £90.26 million in the year to December 31, down 5 per cent from the previous year's loss on turnover that more than doubled to £85 million. The loss per share was 7.8p against a loss of 7.1p.

Standard Chartered in dispute with US bank

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD Chartered Bank is embroiled in a contractual wrangle with First Interstate in America after the West Coast bank agreed to a \$11.5 billion takeover by Wells Fargo last month.

Standard Chartered had a "business development agreement to widen services to their mutual clients since it bought First Interstate's overseas network in 1993.

There is a financial penalty if the American bank walks away. However, its new parent has a similar agreement with HSBC, Standard

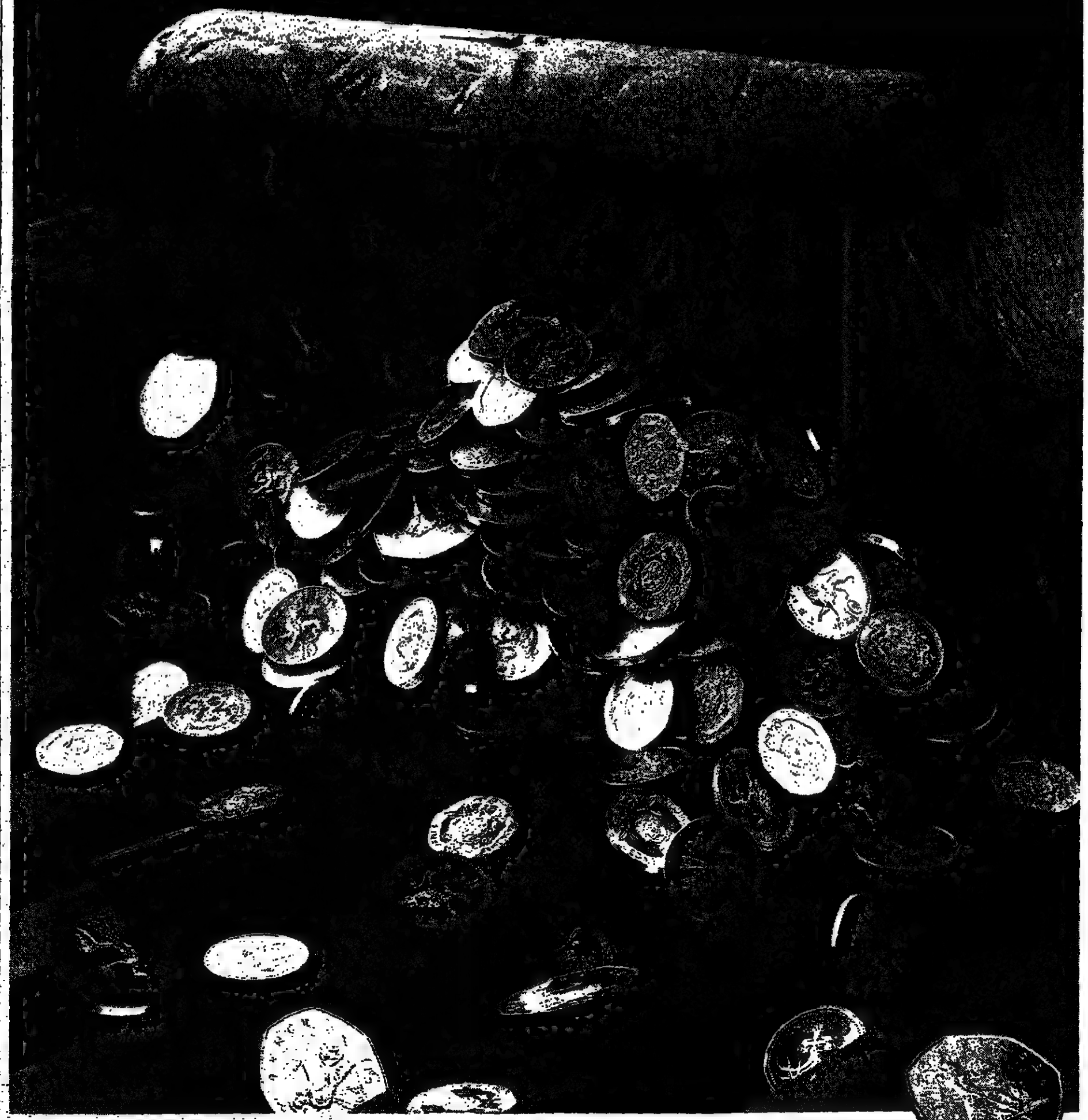
Chartered's biggest rival in the Far East.

Patrick Gillam, chairman of Standard Chartered, said: "We would much rather have a form of continuing relationship with Wells Fargo than a contractual argument."

Standard Chartered yesterday impressed the City with pre-tax profits for 1995 up 30 per cent to £661 million, at the top end of forecasts. The dividend is up 38 per cent to 11p, with the final payment of 7.75p due on May 31.

Tempos, page 28

STILL DOING THIS WITH YOUR COMPANY'S MONEY?



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SCEEMAS
Department of the Environment

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هكذا في الراحل

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Trafalgar, Lasmo and Ladbroke the targets

SPOTTING potential bid targets is easy. It is getting the timing right that is the difficult part. Yesterday the market was bracing itself for news of another big bid. The bid targets are all familiar names, having gone through the takeover mill time and time again. The speculators will be hoping that this time they have the timing correct. "It feels like something is going on out there," was the comment of one leading market-maker last night.

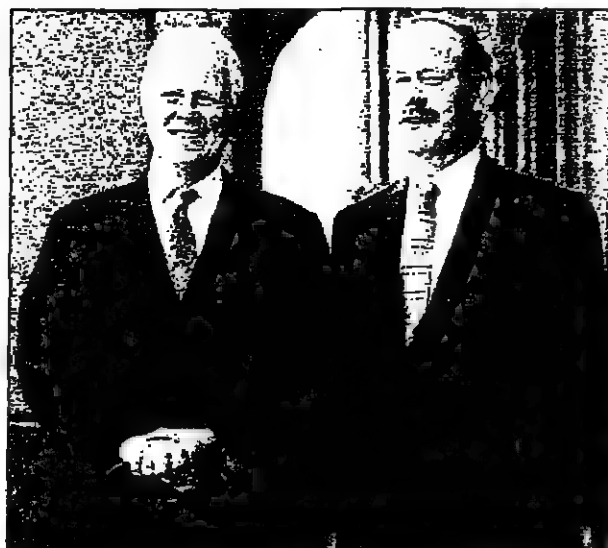
This latest flurry of speculative activity follows hard on the heels of Kvaerner's proposed bid for Trafalgar House, down 1 1/2p at 45 1/2p. The Norwegian industrial conglomerate is expected to announce terms of a bid at any time, valuing the debt-laden Trafalgar at more than £800 million. Much will depend on the reaction of Hong Kong Land, Trafalgar's 26 per cent shareholder, to the terms, expected to be pitched at about the 55p level.

Top of the corporate hit-list yesterday was Ladbroke. Dealers may be about to receive that long-awaited bid from Base. The shares rose 3p to 184p on turnover of almost five million shares amid claims that next Thursday's figures may provide the springboard for such a move. The Hilton hotel chain in the US has also been dipped as a possible predator. Ladbroke already owns the Hilton hotels outside of the US. Base responded to news of management changes with a rise of 12p to 754p.

Lasmo, the oil exploration group, where Shell is expected to make an offer, is reporting today. The shares stood out with a jump of 7p to 189p as more than seven million changed hands. Shell was 6 1/2p better at 849 1/2p.

This latest bout of takeover fever cheered investors and enabled the rest of the equity market to extend Tuesday's gains. A positive start to trading on Wall Street enabled the FT-SE 100 index to close at its best of the day with a rise of 3.782 points on turnover of almost 800 million shares.

As expected, Standard Chartered, the international banking group, weighed in with a useful increase in full-year figures. Whispers late on Tuesday suggested the group would see pre-tax profits come in at the top end of estimates. The final figure of £621 million



Alan Jones and Ronald Henderson of BICC, down 5p

was up from £510 million last time, with earnings 44 per cent ahead. Much of the growth came from the group's operations in the Far East.

Patrick Gillam, chairman, was quick to quash recent takeover speculation. He said there had been no formal talks and said Standard had an excellent future as an independent bank. He also dismissed

claims of a share buyback scheme. The shares finished the day 37p better at 636p, with more than seven million traded. Barclays rose 10p to 781p. There was a large buyer of National Westminster Bank doing the rounds, paying 705p for 5.2 million shares when the ruling market price stood at 691p. NatWest clawed back some of Tuesday's fall, closing 15p up on

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was confident of a better performance in the current year as the benefits of increased efficiency filtered through. But the disappointing performance of Balfour Beatty means further provisions may be required.

British Aerospace fell 6p to 869p as the pathfinder prospectus for Orange, the mobile telephone operator in which it has a 31 per cent stake, was published. The offer range of 325 million shares at 175p-205p values Orange at up to £2.4 billion. The estimated £625 million raised by the issue will go towards repaying existing shareholder loans. The sale will reduce BAe's holding to 22.9 per cent.

Vesper Thornycroft's failure to land a contract with the Royal Navy to build three type 23 frigates saw sink its price sink 43p to 833p. The order has been awarded to Yarrow, part of GEC. The loss of the contract is likely to mean that 300 jobs will have to go during the next year, with a further 150 workers not having their short-term contracts renewed. Hanson marked time at 186p after announcing plans to sell its Cavenham Forest Industries' US properties. Weyerhaeuser is paying \$500 million for the timberland and saw mill interests. It is the first disposal since Hanson announced plans to demerge earlier this month.

Oil-GILT-EDGED: Opening gains proved short-lived following a disappointing response to the latest auction. The issue of £3 billion of Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was just 1-1/8 times covered and there is concern that the market may have trouble absorbing the stock.

The March series of the Long Gilt closed £113 better at £107 1/2, with 84,000 contracts completed. In the cash market prices closed off the bottom, helped by a late rally among international bond markets. There was a further steepening of the yield curve, with the shorter end of the market enjoying the best gains. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 closed £4 better at £96 1/2, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1 1/2 better at £103 1/2.

NEW YORK: With various economic indicators out of the way, confidence returned to Wall Street and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 30.34 points higher at 5,579.55.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

ICE-LONDON (London 6:00pm)

CRUDE OILS (Brent FOB)

BRENT 15 DAY (April)

BRENT 15 DAY (May)

BRENT 15 DAY (June)

BRENT 15 DAY (July)

BRENT 15 DAY (August)

BRENT 15 DAY (September)

BRENT 15 DAY (October)

BRENT 15 DAY (November)

BRENT 15 DAY (December)

BRENT 15 DAY (January)

BRENT 15 DAY (February)

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BRENT 15 DAY (April)

BRENT 15 DAY (May)

BRENT 15 DAY (June)

BRENT 15 DAY (July)

BRENT 15 DAY (August)

BRENT 15 DAY (September)

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)

Dow Jones Industrial Average

S&P Composite

Tokyo

Nikkei Average

Hong Kong

Hang Seng

Amsterdam

EEX Index

Sydney

ASX

Frankfurt

DAX

Singapore

Straits

Brussels

General

Paris

CAC-40

Zurich

SIX

London

FT 100

FT 100

FT 100

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THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Art deco at
Lloyds TSB

SIR Nicholas Goodison, deputy chairman at Lloyds TSB, has been casting a critical eye over Lloyds art deco offices in Lombard Street, where executive status is measured by the distance of the office from the parish yellow line on the level floor.

"Where most people feel quite queasy on first sight of the yellow flooring, which is under a preservation order, Sir Nicholas is rather fond of it. 'It's not the line, it's the subsequent fluorescent lighting and the magnolia walls,' he wails. 'We really must look into the intention of the original architect.'

Hand of Tiny

TINY ROWLAND yesterday demonstrated that he doesn't always have to use a sharp tongue against his corporate 'son'. His right arm is almost as powerful.

At Lloyds' annual meeting, yesterday, where Tiny's once favoured corporate 'son' Dieter Bock and Lloyds director Jonathan Platts-Mills were up for re-election, Tiny raised his arm to vote against both of them. He didn't win the day against a sea of 'yes' votes, but the crowd smile on his face was still evident well after the meeting ended.

Gin sling

ANN GLOAG, owner of Beaufort Castle and a founder of the Stagecoach empire, has had her name confused with a new brand of gin. Produced by Matthew Gloag & Son, Gloag's Gin is in fact a distilled 'art deco' spirit, after former Stagecoach office in Perth, but the family is wearing thin. Ann was married to a distant cousin of Matthew Gloag, but she plays no part in the boiling of juniper berries.



Gloag jumper muddle.

The new Taffia

A NEW Internet venture to put Welsh businessmen in contact — to stay in a hotel, run by a Welsh person or eat at a Welsh-run restaurant — is called Taffia, the collective 'noun' otherwise used to describe David Prosser of Legal & General. Wynford Evans of the Bank of Wales, and Hugh Jenkins of the Bank of Wales, are the original Taffia. Jenkins said: 'It's more a network than an Italian family. Welsh, by root, Welsh by nature.'

LLOYDS BANK Business Club is holding an important meeting in Reading next week, where a Mr Leeson will lecture on 'Bad Debt Collection'. It will not be a video conference from the Far East — Richard Leeson of solicitors Robbery Morris & Co will be there in person.

Green fingers

BRIAN QUINN, the Bank of England executive director now parrying his way to retirement, has not lost his Scottish canniness in the skirts of the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street. He is too well aware that some of those keenest to obtain his services might be the least appropriate. He will guard his City credit rating jealously and will enjoy his compulsory three months' gardening leave without rushing into anything.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Why Tokyo has become a riskier bet than New York

Flow changing conditions have totally transformed the Japanese stock market

TWO months ago I said in my regular column of new year predictions that the biggest financial surprise of 1996 would be the continuing strength of the US stock market, particularly in comparison with the miserable performance I expected from Japan. This stance put me directly at odds with most professional financial analysts.

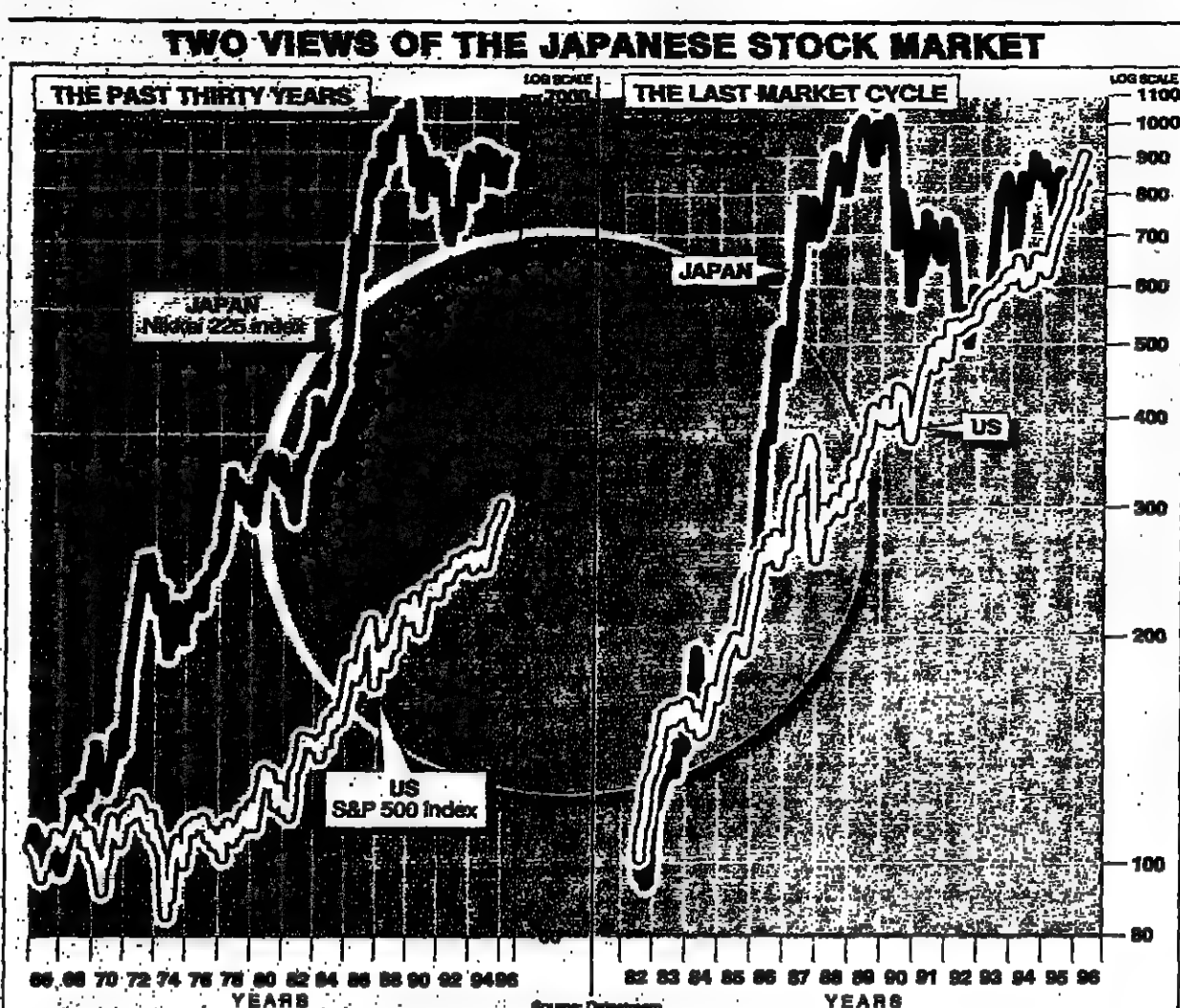
Yesterday, Tokyo's Nikkei index fell below the 20,000 mark for the first time this year, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average continued to discount resistance some 40 per cent above its level of December 29. It seemed an appropriate time to take stock.

The situation on Wall Street, which Anthony Harris and I discussed on February 13 and 14, when Wall Street first ran into resistance at about 3,600 on the Dow, has attracted a good deal of attention — mostly from the Cassandras who have been predicting a 1987-style crash ever since the market started rising about 18 months ago.

For the moment, events seem to be bearing out the less dramatic view expressed here on February 13: that US equities have probably now gone high enough to become a 'sell' for short-term traders and very cautious savers, but that more during long-term investors who feel they can see through a moderate correction or a longer period of oscillation trading should hang on for more gains in the second half of the year.

Japan, however, is actually the more interesting leg of the global strategists' costly two-way bet. According to the latest Merrill Lynch/Gallup survey, UK fund managers are bulls on Japan, outnumbering bears by a margin of 89 per cent to 11 per cent. A similar poll of Continental European managers showed a bullish margin of 78-22 and American surveys have come up with broadly similar results.

More remarkably still, according to a paper on Japan's 'new stockmarket' bubble' from David Asher, an Oxford-based consultant on Japanese finance, foreigners were net buyers of stock in every single month from March to December last year, while domestic investors were net sellers.



There have been several very good reasons. There is now little doubt that the three-year recession in Japan is finally over. For the first time since the late 1980s, industrial production in Japan is now growing faster than almost anywhere else in the OECD. Interest rates are almost at zero, the money supply is expanding strongly and consumer confidence is rising.

Most importantly, the yen has weakened steadily against the dollar and other major currencies. That has, however, been another — much more dubious — reason for buying shares in Japan. This is the argument which can crudely be summarised as 'what goes down must come up'.

Everyone knows that Japan is the world's most successful economy and that Japanese equities have been the greatest investments in the entire history of finance. Everyone knows that the Nikkei peaked in 1989 at 39,000 and then crashed to 20,000 in nine months.

Everyone also knows that this collapse was a delayed action replay of the 1929 crash on Wall Street, that Wall Street soon recovered and that American share prices soared after the 1929 recession to double their value before the 1987 crash.

Such recollections have led many analysts to conclude that Japanese shares will quickly bounce back to their previous peaks — and then probably take off on another gravity-defying surge. All Tokyo needs is for the obvious macroeconomic and financial tethers to be removed — get rid of the high yen, solve the bad debt problem and the Nikkei will take off on the bull market of a lifetime.

al wisdom — for both financial and economic reasons. Financially, the situation in Tokyo today is totally unlike Wall Street after the 1991 recession. First there is the extraordinary selling pressure from local investors already mentioned, much of it related to the need for banks and industrial companies to free the capital tied up in their enormous equity holdings, for which there is no longer a compelling business rationale. This process is not when 'new over' — as indicated by the fact that 60 per cent of the stock market is still outside the 'free-float'.

A second, and even more daunting, obstacle to a bull market in Tokyo is what Mr Asher calls 'Japan's valuation

The situation is totally unlike that of Wall Street after the 1991 recession

bubble'. Quite simply, the present price of Japanese shares — even with the Nikkei at 'only' 20,000 — already discounts a profits recovery of staggering proportions. The figures are mind-boggling, even by Japanese standards.

The price/earnings ratio on the Nikkei, in terms of historic earnings already announced, was 130 in mid-January. As Mr Asher notes this is 30 per cent higher than at the peak of the 1989 'bubble' and six times higher than the P/E on Wall Street in the present boom. Everyone knows that profits in Japan will rise, but even on present earnings, the P/E ratio is between 70 and 80. As Mr Asher notes: 'Even though equity returns in Japan at

tors the option of retaining their share certificates, if they so wish. The developments affecting the equity market in 1996 are complex and extremely important for the future of London as a major financial centre. Yours faithfully, PAUL SYMONS, Manager, CrestCo Ltd, Trinity Tower, 9 Thomas More Street, EL

present are on the way up, their growth rate is far behind the expectations reflected in stock values. At some point the laws of gravity will prevail.

Japan's equity valuations have traditionally been extremely high P/E's — partly reflecting very high rates of investment and of depreciation — because of the exceptionally fast growth of the economy and of company profits. But it is still reasonable to expect such exceptional growth.

Most Japanese believe it is not — which is presumably why they are huge sellers of their own equity market. Foreigners, by contrast, seem to believe that present valuations in Tokyo are a bargain and therefore, implicitly, that Japan will soon return to extremely rapid growth.

This seems unlikely. While the yen will probably weaken again, it is unlikely to move anywhere near the level of ¥120 which Japan needs to restore decent industrial profitability — at least until after the US presidential election. In the longer-term Japan's financial balances are shifting. The era of big trade surpluses is over. The Government is now running chronic budget deficits and demographics could eventually transform Japan from the world's largest saver into a debtor nation.

Most importantly, the combination of the bubble economy, the yen shock, the trade pressure from America and the exhaustion of opportunities to 'catch up' with American technology have transformed Japan from a very high growth economy to one which can, at best, hope to grow only slightly faster than the OECD average. None of this implies that the Tokyo market will fall far below current levels, since

even with moderate economic growth there should be scope for big earnings gains. But it is hard to see much prospect for a big recovery — even to the level of 25,000 widely predicted by foreigners, never mind the old 39,000 peak.

Perhaps the best summary of all these arguments is suggested by the charts. The first shows that buying Japanese shares in the 1960s and early 1970s was indeed the investment opportunity of a lifetime. The second, however, suggests that Japan ceased to be a land of investment miracles many years ago.

In fact, since the start of the present bull market, in July 1992, a long-term investor would have done almost exactly as well putting money in America or in Japan. Looking several years ahead, this pattern or rough equality seems likely to continue. In the short term, however, the prospects are less favorable, and financial conditions are riskier in Tokyo than in New York.

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A brave move but will it be the right one?

Ross Tieman questions the wisdom of Kvaerner's interest in Trafalgar

Kvaerner is the Norwegian word for mill. It seems fitting that Norway's biggest company has turned itself into a £3 billion-a-year business by sitting the millstone of failing shipyards from the necks of European governments. But why has the company now turned its philanthropy from taxpayers to investors in British engineering and construction conglomerates with blown-away balance sheets?

A 26 per cent stake in Amec, the oil rig builder, is already weighing upon Kvaerner's own under-resourced balance sheet in the wake of a failed bid. Now Kvaerner has approached Trafalgar House, the Camard cruise liners to John Brown engineering group, with a view to making an agreed takeover offer.

Sceptics suggest that Kvaerner's aim is to build a substantial United Kingdom business tax-free, courtesy of Trafalgar's massive accrued tax losses. But many of Trafalgar's businesses fall outside Kvaerner's declared core activities of shipbuilding, offshore oil and gas engineering, mechanical engineering, and wood-pulp processing technology.

Well, corporate strategy is a moveable feast. But even if it convinces Trafalgar investors, Kvaerner is going to have to explain to the City what skills its history has imparted that will make a success of the acquisition.

Kvaerner can trace its roots to the earliest days of Norway's industrial revolution, when engineering companies were set up to substitute home-produced machines for the imported equipment used by farmers and foresters. Kvaerner Brug, founded in 1853, was a lead supplier of machinery for the country's sawmills. A series of agreements in the 1920s created a conglomerate, linked by cross-shareholdings, making wood-processing machines, hydro-electric turbines, paper-making machines, and railway locomotives.

But it was only in the early 1960s, after the group acquired Norway's Moss Shipyard, that it became known as Kvaerner. In 1967, a deal was struck to consolidate the cross holding, and Kvaerner Industrier was set up. Kvaerner exploited its nationality and location to become a leading builder of rigs and equipment as oil and gas production gathered pace in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. It snatched up shipyards, focusing first on construction of natural gas tankers — complex, high-margin ships — for the new industry.

The company's strength in hydro-power, a legacy of the Norwegian landscape, was reinforced with acquisitions in the United States and later Britain. The Govan yard on Clydeside found a home within the group, together with a series of hitherto state-owned manufacturers of ships' diesels and marine equipment.

Kvaerner went on to buy the Masa yards in Finland, specialising in cruise ships and ice-breakers. With 12 yards, it is Europe's largest shipbuilder and last year made a pre-tax profit of £246 million. Shipbuilding accounted for £153 million of that but competition is intensifying. Oil and gas plant recovered from loss but mechanical engineering only broke even, and pulp and paper machines lost money.

Like a maritime clone of Bombardier, the Canadian aerospace group, Kvaerner has made a living mopping up ailing businesses in tough sectors. The track record is arguable but the courage, or foolhardiness, is awesome.

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The Clyde-based Govan yard, owned by Kvaerner

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Application may only be made on the Application Form contained in the Prospectus or the Mini-Prospectus.

Copies of the Prospectus or Mini-Prospectus relating to the Company, which were published on 28 February 1996, may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from the Company Announcements Office of the London Stock Exchange, Capel Court entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP (for collection only) from the date of this notice up to and including 4 March 1996 and from the date of this notice up to and including 3 April 1996 from:

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29 February 1996

BaE in plan to reshape Airbus

By Ross Tiesman
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AEROSPACE and Daimler-Benz are re-launching their campaign to reorganise Airbus Industrie. They say the European planemaker consortium must become a limited company to regain the initiative in its global sales battle with Boeing of America and fund the development of the A3XX, a super-jumbo.

Reforms by President Jacques Chirac for Aérospatiale, the French state planemaker that owns 37.9 per cent of Airbus and assembles most of the airliner range, could open the door to a breakthrough, they believe.

Jürgen Schrempp, chairman of Daimler-Benz, said: "The businesses are in agreement; the politicians are in agreement; the question is only in which way and with what kind of speed. Our opinion is that it should be done as soon as possible."

Dick Evans, BaE's chief executive, is expected to confirm the new urgency for an overhaul that would free Airbus to buy components from the cheapest suppliers able to meet quality requirements when he unveils BaE's profits for 1995 later today.

Industry sources say the moves are necessary to enable Airbus, 20 per cent owned by BaE, to match Boeing's vigorous cost-cutting drive. It is also seen as a prelude to launching an Airbus super-jumbo that would destroy Boeing's 747 monopoly. According to a senior European industry executive, Boeing makes \$30 million on each 747, and uses half to cross-subsidise sales of smaller planes.

A growing rapprochement between Daimler and BaE is expected to open the door to deeper co-operation and even joint ventures. BaE and Daimler co-operate on developing and building the Eurofighter combat plane, but the Germans are apparently keen to establish deeper commercial ties.



Sir Keith Stuart, chairman of Associated British Ports, which is set to continue its high level of capital investment during this year and 1997

ABP investment to continue as profits increase by 10%

By Carl Mortished

HIGH levels of capital investment are set to continue at Associated British Ports, which yesterday announced a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £88.4 million in 1995. ABP invested £77 million in its business last year of which £61 million related to improvements to the ports. The total spend was 30 per cent up on 1994 and Sir Keith Stuart, the chairman, expects investment in the ports to rise slightly in 1996 and continue at the same level for the following year.

The dividend is up 18.2 per cent for the year at 6.5p, but the entire increase came in the interim payout and the final dividend is pegged at 3.5p. Dividend cover fell from three to 2.7 times. Sir Keith said he was happy with a dividend cover rate fluctuating between two and three times. "Part of the decision must be the level of capital expenditure," he said, indicating that current high levels limited the ability to reduce cover.

Total cargo tonnage passing through the ports grew by 4 per cent to 114.5 million tonnes with good increases in vehicle exports, containers and roll-on/roll-off traffic. However, timber imports had slowed due to the weak construction markets. Sir Keith said that in spite of the slowing in the world economy he expected further growth.

Port activities contributed £102 million compared with £92 million in 1994, including £26.8 million (£23.9 million) of

port-related rental income. Grimsby and Immingham had record throughputs of 44 million tonnes boosted by a new Ro/Ro terminal built for the DFDS shipping line. However, weaker timber imports reduced trade at Hull.

ABP's ports in South Wales had a weak first half but the company is expecting a boost from expansion at British Steel's Port Talbot plant, where during 1996, ABP plans to deepen the tidal harbour to handle larger vessels.

Southampton Container Terminal, ABP's joint venture with P&O, achieved a 16 per cent rise in container throughput to 683,000 units. Sir Keith said container traffic was up 20 per cent in the current period and more capacity was being built with the aim of bringing the throughput capability up to 1 million units.

The company did not take any business from the Port of Liverpool during the six-week closure caused by the strike at Mersey Docks, said Sir Keith. "Our Southampton container terminal was already operating at full capacity," he said.

Non-port property income rose 12 per cent to £13.8 million in 1995 owing to the reduction in rent-free periods. Grosvenor Square Properties sold an office building at St Martin's Lane, central London, for £15 million and reinvested £9 million in another office building in Milton Keynes, yielding 10 per cent. Sir Keith said the policy was to recycle some of GSP's capital in property producing better income returns.

Times, page 28

Sema shares leap on full-year £38m

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in Sema, the Anglo-French computer services group, jumped 25p to 584p yesterday after the company announced full-year profits of £38 million, an increase of 18 per cent.

The company, which is gearing up to provide the IT infrastructure for the European Football Championships in June, said that its order books have risen a further 33 per cent suggesting further improvement in 1996. Sema provides

software and systems support to large clients such as TSB, the French Army and Electricité de France. Turnover rose 13.7 per cent to £678 million, while the dividend, which is payable on July 1, rises by 22 per cent to 5p.

The company reported a particularly strong performance from its telecoms division, which specialises in anti-fraud technology, turnover increasing by 76 per cent to £60.6 million. Turnover in the outsourcing division also increased significantly to £222 million, a rise of 29 per

cent. Last month it signed its largest outsourcing contract to date, with Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong. The group has also extended its position in the specialist data disaster recovery market in the last few weeks by taking control of CAP-RS and DataShield Ltd.

The company said that the acquisition in November of TS FM in France would expand the company's presence in Europe. The United Kingdom currently contributes more than 40 per cent of the group's turnover and profits.

Left on the cutting-room floor

Anthony Carey looks at what is still missing from annual company reports to shareholders

Committed to integrity, independence and freedom from bias, with a formidable reputation built up by supplying relevant, reliable and timely information for more than a century, I am not referring to the *Institute of Chartered Accountants* which co-sponsor the Annual Awards for Published Accounts along with the Stock Exchange. The accolade instead goes to Reuters, the winner of the larger company award for 1994.

Everyone with an interest in financial reporting can learn much from Reuters, its world-class reputation, with customers in 149 countries, has been achieved by actively addressing users' needs through a strong commitment to innovation and to communicating information in the most effective way possible. These qualities are as much in evidence in the company's annual report as in their general approach to business.

The Reuters report opens with a concise summary of financial highlights. Information is then provided on its three core areas — information, transaction and media products — including a discussion of customers, competitors and outlook. A biographical section on directors and executive committee members outlines positions held within and outside the

group by senior personnel during the course of their careers, highlighting the team's breadth of experience.

A thorough operating and financial review includes a calculation of performance relative to other members of the FT-SE 100 and a summary of important assets not recognised in the balance sheet, such as goodwill, software and databases. Good use is made of charts and diagrams throughout.

The quality of information provided outside the financial statements section of an annual report and its clarity of presentation are among the principal means by which a leading annual report can be distinguished from an average one. In too many cases, as Richard Sykes, QC, the chairman of the awards judges, remarked, annual reports look as though they have been "thrown together" in a hurry.

In financial reporting, it sometimes seems difficult to see the wood for the trees. The focus is often on individual items in the accounts, with insufficient attention paid to the overall picture. The Accounting Standards Board, though, deserves substantial credit for its wide-ranging review of the profit and loss account and the introduction of cashflow statements as well as for its publication of



Anthony Carey cites Reuters as the example to follow

guidance on the operating and financial review.

Much work remains to be undertaken, however, on matters dealt with outside the audited financial statements. To enable annual reports to satisfy the needs of shareholders and other stakeholders, better disclosure and more guidance are called for on the likes of environmental issues, human resources, reporting of risk and non-financial measures of performance.

On corporate governance, there would be merit in the Hampel committee looking at disclosures in this area in the round. A number of additional requirements have emerged from Cadbury, Greenbury and elsewhere, but uneven attention has been paid to the various dimensions of this issue. In general, there is a need for a move away from a deep-seated compliance culture in financial reporting towards one based on continuous enhancement and striving for excellence.

Within the financial statements, the degree of segmental analysis varies markedly between companies, as does the quality of information in the notes on financial instruments, depreciation rates, pensions and directors' remuneration.

Reuters's matrix analysis of revenue in each of its three principal product areas by region provided valuable information that would not have been available if it had separately analysed revenue by product and geographical region. Full disclosure of the value of directors' share options and of the fair value of financial instruments are also worthy of mention.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, secretary-general of the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), expressed slight disappointment in his speech at the awards ceremony that no mention is made generally by global companies such as Reuters of International Accounting Standards (IAS) in annual reports. The standing of IASC has risen sharply recently, and hopefully a number of leading UK companies, particularly those with an international list of shareholders, will provide a reconciliation from UK GAAP to IAS in their reports. If their counterparts from other countries did the same, it would enable users to compare global companies using a common benchmark.

Anthony Carey is secretary of the technical directorate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Clearly, the message is getting through

THIS week it is back to basics. A set of accounts, put together painstakingly by those with the accounting skills at a company and given the independent imprimatur by an outside team of auditors, is the root of it all. It is easy to forget this. Both accountancy firms and finance directors have tended to play it all down. Not terribly sexy, accounts. Indeed, they are not. But they are the fundamentals.

Last week saw the presentation of the annual awards for the best examples. These are sponsored by the Stock Exchange and the three chartered accountancy institutes. As Anthony Carey says in his article on this page today, it is quality of information that counts. And the quality, whatever Ernst & Young may be saying about Sir David Tweedie and all the Accounting Standards Board's reforms, is steadily improving.

For years I was a judge at the annual awards for reporting to employees. It was a difficult task. There was a thin line that divided patronising simplicity of the sort they spoke and wrote in lumps of indigestible jargon connected only by technical neologisms. Now, as a result of every accountant's familiarity with the skills of information technology, they can express what has happened in graphics. And at last people are beginning to understand.

This is why the Ernst & Young attack on the ASB for producing stuff which "is scarcely comprehensible by most accountants and other businessmen" may be wide of the mark. Once upon a time it might have been true. But the growth in general financial understanding has changed that. It is one of the ASB's greatest changes.

The key to the ASB's belief in such a development is that it is not a prescribed

section. There are no specific rules. It is the way out of the stifling debate on rules versus principles. As one senior finance director told me: "We prefer Tweedie's 'statement of principles' because it should allow us freedom of action within principles."

The whole argument over disclosure in financial reporting has been bedevilled over the years with the crippling ethos of the accountant: "Never give anyone anything extra" has been the watchword. Now that is changing. Financial reporting is breaking free of its past. The ASB has set the example.

By basing the reasoning behind what is in a set of accounts as close as possible to the Tweedie maxim of "telling it like it is", it has also allowed the same principle to extend to the whole arena of financial reporting. Suddenly it is becoming clear that reputations can be enhanced by providing more and better financial information. Two problems then appear: First is how far the information, like that in the operating and financial review, is true and fair. And second, is how much information a report and accounts can take before you reach the point where it splits into two, one of which is simple a wodge of data the size of a telephone book. At the awards, Rob Rowley, the finance director of Reuters, gave warning that, as more disclosure became both necessary, via Greenbury for example, and useful, the documents could eventually challenge the typical US filings for size. These, he said, "tended to be put into filing cabinets rather than read". In future accounts will become electronic. The latest Reuters results had been flashed immediately on to the World Wide Web. In future, the same would happen with the annual report and accounts. "Our large US shareholders would receive the information instantaneously," he said.

As for the poaching of the growing areas of information which do not come directly into the auditors' remit, the newly published Auditors' Code should take care of that.

The eighth commandment reads: "Auditors allow their reports to be included in documents containing other information only if they consider that the additional information is not in conflict with the matters covered by their report and they have no cause to believe it to be misleading." That too is fundamental.



ROBERT BRUCE

The measure of our success

TRIPLEX-LOYD may have a problem. It has won, for the second time, the annual award for the best report and accounts from a smaller company, and is getting worried about how you define "smaller". The rules say anything under £50 million of balance sheet assets, but the latest Triplex-Lloyd results show that it has broken that

barrier. Will it be denied the chance of a hat-trick? Perhaps not. The judges say they are "likely to put up a proposal to change the method of measurement".

Name dropping

When Ernst & Young produced its first onslaught on the Accounting Standards

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Board's "statement of principles" in 1994, its arguments were cut down in size by one of the most influential of academics. "When a UK institution does show leadership it should be applauded for it, not condemned," thundered David Solomon in one of the last articles he wrote before his death. And what was Solomon's title? Ernst & Young

Professor Emeritus at the Wharton School of Accounting.

Care rewarded

For the first time, an accountancy firm made it into the finals of the annual awards for customer service. The judges said Stephens & Co, the Hertfordshire firm founded by

Steve Pipe, stood out because accountancy was not usually associated with excellence in customer care.

Dial-a-disc

Ernst & Young is giving away CD-Roms. The disc is called EY-Passport and is packed with international business and tax information. Call Karen O'Sullivan on 0171-431 4494.

ROBERT BRUCE

BUSINESS ROUNDUP
Inveresk shares
on first-half war

Subsidence costs

Culley praises me

Debut for Visual

Takeover boost

Expos moves into

Clean the mess
is getting through

In the fight against disease, this could be the most powerful weapon yet.



It's not magic. But it may yet work miracles.

This is the trademark of a completely different kind of pharmaceutical venture.

The recently-merged Pharmacia & Upjohn.

It's a partnership that has created a company of quite remarkable depth and scope: over 30,000 people working in 50 countries and serving 200 million people around the world.

And it's for those 200 million people that this announcement should come as very good news.

Because the merger will give two pools of specialised medical talent the opportunity to work together for the first time ever.

Resulting in real, tangible benefits in the fight

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This merger is not simply a matter of shared resources, however.

It is also about shared ideals.

Our trademark stands as a symbol for humanity, hope and inspiration.

Values that we intend to apply to every single aspect of the way we do business.

You are surprised to hear such sentiments coming from a global pharmaceutical company?

This is not the last time we'll be surprising you.

You can be sure of that.



**Pharmacia
& Upjohn**

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

10-11-68

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1984		Firm	Price	Ct	Ft
Ln	Ln Company				
129	31 Pump Power	156	27	42	12
130	143 French Con	154	27	42	12
131	479 Hedges (F)	111	1	63	10
132	143 French Con	256	1	63	10
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Jeremy Laurance reports that NHS hospitals are making the most of the million-pound profits they receive from the private sector

Private care set for expansion

New life has been breathed into the private health business, and it shows. A plethora of schemes, special offers and cut-price deals appears to have restored the health of an industry that looked to be ailing a few years ago. In 1994, the number of people covered by private medical insurance rose by 4 per cent to 6.6 million. That was the first year in which there had been significant growth since the start of the recession in 1990, and early results from 1995 suggest the growth has been sustained.

William Laing, of the private health consultants Laing and Buisson, believes the market looks set for further expansion throughout the rest of the 1990s to reach nine million people covered by the end of the decade as the effects of the recession fade and the employment market recovers. However, some of the major insurers are less optimistic, predicting a no-growth future.

Private hospitals have benefited from the growth with an 8 per cent rise in income in 1994 to more than £1.2 billion. However, many are struggling with low occupancy rates as lengths of stay fall and more procedures are carried out on a day-surgery basis.

The boost that private hospitals were expecting from the introduction of the NHS market in 1991 has never materialised. Health authorities and GP fundholders have not used their freedom to contract with private providers to any great extent. Less than £1 in every £20 earned by private hospitals comes from the NHS.

Although the much vaunted private finance initiative scored its first big success with the announcement of a £50 million scheme at St James's Hospital, Leeds, earlier this year, there is unlikely to be any major shift towards private companies providing NHS core services this side of the general election.

However, while the private sector has failed to win a share of the NHS market, the NHS is grabbing a rapidly growing share of the private care market. Pay-beds have become an important and growing source of income for some NHS hospitals.

The NHS is estimated to have taken 16 per cent of the acute private healthcare market last year, almost 50 per cent up on its share in 1988.

The Fitzhugh Directory, edited by private care consultant William Fitzhugh, predicts that the NHS will have 20 per cent of the market by 1997. It is already the third largest private provider after Bupa hospitals and the French-owned group which includes BMI.

The private hospitals view this expansion with wariness tinged with resentment. They believe the scales are unfairly balanced in the NHS's favour in terms of costs of servicing capital, the advantages of scale and the presence of consultants on site. As a result, their profit margins are higher.

NHS pay-beds earn £20 million profit, enough to pay for 20,000 routine operations, according to a report commissioned by Norwich Union Healthcare. The "profit", which is ploughed back into

the NHS, averages £290 a patient and takes account of hidden costs such as the training of doctors and nurses.

The report, *Are Pay-Beds Profitable?* by National Economic Research Associates, the economic consultants, was based on a survey of six private units in NHS hospitals which together represented 10 per cent of private provision in the NHS. It found the average revenue per private patient was £1,710, excluding fees paid to the consultant.

Norwich Union is poised to benefit from the boom in NHS pay-beds, which remain competitively priced. It offers a scheme limiting treatment to NHS private units, which attracts savings of up to 30 per cent compared with schemes offering treatment in private hospitals.

The top ten NHS earners all generated revenue of more than £2 million, with the London hospitals Guy's, St Thomas and the Royal Free earning more than £8 million each. The unspoken fear among private providers is just how far the NHS will penetrate the market. Could it become the dominant force?

Labour's policy on private practice remains unclear. There is no mention of phasing out NHS pay-beds in its latest health policy document.



Private healthcare is big business for private clinics, and for NHS pay-beds too

Battle to win more customers

Who will be the victor in the Health Wars ahead?

Ruth Corb analyses a competitive insurance market

The most significant development within private medical insurance (PMI) for some time has probably been the announcement this month by PPP Healthcare, the sector's second largest operator, to change its status from provider to limited company.

Peter Owen, PPP Healthcare's group chief executive, said: "This enables us to raise equity finance. We can compete better with those who have deeper pockets."

Bupa, the biggest operator and a provider since 1947, responded quickly that it had no similar plans. Peter Jacobs, Bupa's chief executive, believes it has "the capital reserves needed to meet its future business strategy".

The present overall value of premium income in this market is thought to be about £1.65 billion, with 3.4 million subscribers and 6.4 million lives covered. The growth prospects look good, but are closely linked to political policies and economic outlook.

One way forward is for PMI to be more affordable for a larger number of people. Traditionally, it has appealed to higher-income, middle-aged people. Much of that business has come through company-paid insurance. The industry must find ways to allow those employees to be able to afford PMI when they retire.

Julian Stainton, chief executive of Western Provident As-

sociation (the third largest operator), says: "PMI should not be beyond the reach of ordinary people. There are ways to cut the costs. For instance, we are seeing a resurgence of interest in products such as hospital cash schemes under which a policyholder receives a specified benefit should he or she be admitted to either an NHS or private hospital."

At the same time there has been an expansion in the range of products offered. The marketing of services such as health-check screenings, quick access to outpatient treatment and free information helplines are growing. What is more, such products could be regarded as preventive medicine and in future help to reduce the frequency of claims. The latter

are a long-term worry, as are the expense of highly sophisticated medical technology, and the complexity and intricacy of treatments available.

Although this may appear a licence to print money, William Laing, the consultant, says that profit margins from PMI are "relatively small". The influx by banks, building societies and insurance companies into this market in the late 1980s was more to add another facility to their packages of financial services, than to make handsome profits. It is generally thought that subscription income of £50 million to £100 million a year is needed to make it worthwhile, given the costs of establishing a comprehensive in-house claims administration. (In a number of cases this is han-

dled by third-party administrators.)

Experts link the level of success to the level of commitment. The experience of Norwich Union is a good example. Despite the massive downturn in the general insurance market as a whole at the turn of the decade, the company still went ahead with its investment—estimated to be about £50 million—to establish a full service PMI business, which employs 600 staff.

Norwich Union Healthcare has won a big slice of the market—"It took courage, but it paid off," says Tim Baker, its commercial director. It insures about 500,000 people and premium income runs at £150 million a year.

The latest recruit to the health insurance scene is Legal and General Healthcare. Launched at the beginning of February with a £10-million investment, the company is about to live up to the market by offering PMI, a cash plan and life insurance combined in a composite policy at competitive premiums. Duncan Hopper, managing director of Legal and General Healthcare, says: "Our aim is to provide health insurance to a younger and wider audience. The demand is there."

The marketplace is highly competitive, with more than 30 insurers vying for business. William Laing believes it will continue to be dominated by the half a dozen or so insurers capable of dealing with all aspects of PMI, including managed care. Or, as Peter Owen puts it: "It is the healthcare specialists who will come out tops in the Health Wars ahead."

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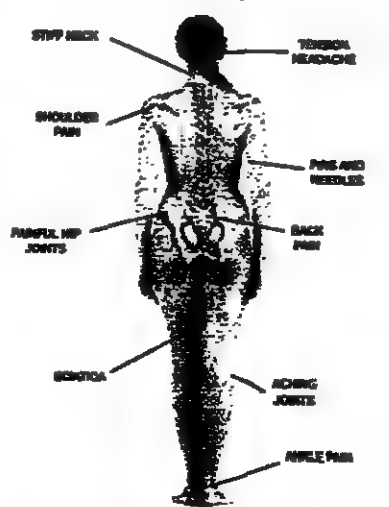
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FILM 1
Kathryn Bigelow's
Strange Days
deals in futuristic
fiction of a
gratuitously
violent nature



FILM 2
A cliché-ridden
British soccer
movie, *When*
Saturday Comes,
generates more
yawn than yarn

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3
The twist in
French Twist
proves to be a
lesbian angle in
an otherwise
innocuous farce



FILM 4
... while the
Spanish thriller,
La Madre
Muerta, offers
black humour and
gothic atmosphere

CINEMA: Geoff Brown on *Strange Days*, Kathryn Bigelow's unpleasant vision of the year 2000

The sick Squid we're owed?

At the woman some medical attention, says the Los Angeles police chief as year 2000 is ushered in racial violence, seething violence, and enough blemish to it the ear drums. What about stretching the audience's tolerance, your senses over? There is no respite for eyes, the winding and subjective camera, conveys us into rapacious and other urban settings. No sun shines upon frenzied city life by technology alone. No quiet interludes soundtrack bombardment of dialogue and a musical of rock, gypsy snatches, digital choirs and Rossini. Is not the film to make happy for the future of cinema or the world, it does the film give great to cheer over the rising sense of its director, Kathryn Bigelow, whose last movie that thrill-a-minute folly, *Breathless*, True, she can the best as their own, exercising muscle and bending Hollywood technology to her own use. With the script by co-writer James Cameron, director of the *Terminator* series, obviously helped here, can point as well to da Bassett's character, a chauffeur of an aristocratic limousine, who is to the rescue of Leany, Ralph Fiennes's wimpy bag of a hero, a cop, black, marketer, n down, baby, this is Ldo, she cries, manoeuvres her vehicle at tornado d. One empowered and, however, hardly as up for the wanton, played by Juliette Lewis, the demeaning behaviour of the favourite haunt, festival fetish nightclub, "le bighy" footage that ow gives to another woman: rape and murder. The event is captured on by an illicit piece of ology called Squid reconducting Quantum ferent Device, which ds directly from the brain replay the experience as ight replay a CD. This is V, this life, "we are told, light from the cerebral x." smes's seedy character in such things, originally loped for police use only, ough even he squirms

Strange Days
Plaza, 18, 145 mins
Uncomfortable vision of
LA four years hence
When Saturday Comes
Odeon West End
15, 106 mins
Dated and soporific
British drama
French Twist
Warner West End
18, 107 mins
Saucy French farce
with a lesbian dressing
La Madre Muerta
MGM Piccadilly
18, 107 mins
Murky perversion
from Spain

however, is never an issue: this humble film, directed by Maria Giese, the American wife of James Daly, a Hollywood producer who started out as a factory worker in Sheffield, deals entirely in fragmentary clips. The hero (Sean Bean) works in a brewery, but longs for a career in professional football. His chance comes when he is offered a trial with Sheffield United. But the old working-class demons arrive to haunt him: drink, family violence, a pregnant girlfriend. Can our sad soul himself together and make something of his life? Do we care? If it were left solely to Giese's pedestrian script and direction, no, we would not. Sean, Emily Lloyd (the girl) and Pete Postlethwaite (the embittered father) blow some dust off the dialogue, and endow the film with a little more spirit than it deserves. But even they cannot prevent the yawns tumbling from audiences' mouths. Jostane Balasko's French *Twist* brings a twist of its own to the honourable traditions of French farce. The wife, husband and lover are all in place, but this time the lover is a stocky, butch lesbian who breezes into the wife's life and leaves the husband, an accomplished philanderer, quivering. It is a silly trifle, but the saucy tone and popular cast have made the film a local hit under the title of *Gazon Maudit*, a slang term whose various meanings include female genitalia. Baskin, best known abroad for her role as Gérard Depardieu's dumpty mistress in *Trop belle pour toi*, writes, directs and co-stars. She initially cuts an appealing figure as the lesbian who experiences car trouble outside Victoria. April's lawn, marches inside, mends her sink, and says, April, dressed in girly splendour, is also pleasing. The plot machinery drags them both under and lessens some of the pleasure in seeing a lesbian relationship presented without leers or digs in the ribs. The triangle's third member, Alain Chabat, pursues a nice line in macho disbelief, although the film's broad strokes affect him too. When he falls from his motorbike, he lands straight into a pigsty. Still, maybe crude slapstick is



Juliette Lewis and Ralph Fiennes in the depressing but well-filmed *Strange Days*

a price worth paying for a film that wears a sunny smile and delights in love of all shades. There is nothing delightful about the love on display in the Spanish film *La Madre Muerta*. Ismael, a criminal, is haunted by the eyes of a child who saw him murder her mother. When next encountered, the child is a mute, mentally retarded teenager.

Ismael still sees her as a threat, kidnaps her, plans to kill her, fails, and chains her to a bed. It is a murky tale, piled high with an unpalatable mixture of religious symbols, blood, chocolate and urine. The director is Juanma Bajo Ulloa, 26 years old when the film was completed in 1993. He has talent, no doubt; you can tell from the brazen use of

the wide screen, the crisp black humour and gothic atmosphere. But the impenetrability of the characters' behaviour casts a pall, as does the unpleasant violence at the beginning and end. Karra Elejalde displays a chilling presence as the murderer locked in a massive Oedipal complex; but the film is finally too perverse for its own good.

No limits to enterprise in these editions

Jim McCue welcomes the daring shown by a touring exhibition of privately printed American books

Lovers of limited editions are grateful to the Rockwell Press for launching a series of Fine Press Bookfairs, held near Oxford. The most recent of these winkled out more than 40 British printers, ranging from presses established for decades — such as the Rampant Lions, whose folio edition of T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* will be published next month — to elusive amateurs such as Benjamin Fender and Oliver Lewis, who began producing their immaculate reprints of 18th-century pamphlets while at school at Winchester College. Meanwhile, the Rocketmen, Jonathan and David Stephenson, have opened a permanent West End showcase for private presses at 13, Old Burlington Street. Now their successful exhibition *Printer & Artist*, highlighting the work of 19 American presses, most of which have never exhibited in Britain before, is in Bath. Almost all of the books are illustrated or decorated, whether with Matisse-ish screenprints, as in *Multitude of One* (Grenfell Press), or by "computer-generated landscapes" held in perspex boards (from Occasional Works of California — where else?). Many prints are also available separately. Three artists stand apart: Barry Moser, Leonard Baskin and Gaylord Schanille. Moser's broody woodcut engravings have illustrated deluxe editions of *Huckleberry Finn*, *Frankenstein* and *Alice*, where they are given maximum impact by beautifully disposed type. But these volumes require a lecture. More satisfying — and less imposing — is Moser's little Alphabet book. Here Yvette Rudledge's gothic letterforms, each printed in a different colour, introduce the emblem: "g" for gauntlet, "m" for miscreant. Initials and engravings appear on alternate openings: turn from "C for cat" into the fanged jaws of a tiger. "H for hogwash" — turn — a grinning Ronald Reagan (1935, Pennyroyal Press, Massachusetts). The versatile Leonard

Baskin has been a stalwart of the Gehenna Press, which celebrated 50 years of printing in 1992. The catalogue-bibliography of the exhibition pays tribute to all he has "designed, cut, pressed and pulled". Gaylord Schanille is a much calmer artist. His broad American scenes, are woodcut engravings with a serene poise. But probably there is less true text than pretence about the books that the Midnight Paper Sales Press has commissioned from him. So often with these projects, the nag is not how well are the books done, but why? Content varies from *King Lear* (grand, but in print elsewhere) to meditations on masturbation (a hostage to the enemies of private presses). There are all too many poets who aren't e.e.cummings — 1925 for the poems of Emilio Adolfo Westphalen? Well, maybe. Christopher Isherwood's *Commonplace Book*, with a portrait by Don Bachardy, is illustrated (and more like Table Talk), but is at least of some interest to actual readers (20 copies only, sadly: Imprenta Glorias, 5400, Manhattan, from Windhover Press, is a literary coup: poems by Amy Clampitt, some of which have never been reworked — but her art needs none of this artistry. For orchestration of text, illustration and craft, Pennyroyal's *Bestiary d'Amour* could scarcely be beaten: a newly translated 13th-century courtly meditation, rare and engaging. Barry Moser's tightly cropped animal portraits; flourished initials; limp vellum binding; £350. This salutation to American presses reciprocates the welcome offered to British work by Oak Knoll Books in Delaware. Transatlantic knots will again be tied at the third Oak Knoll bookfest in the autumn. May heavenly quires attend them. *Printer & Artist* is at Six Chapel Row Contemporary Art, off Queen Square, Bath, until March 9. *Oak Knoll Books* is at 44 Delaware St, New Castle, Delaware 19720 (001 302 328 7232)

How what we say is opened to question

reader from Nuncheon writes to say that this column is infuriating, problem seems to be that I cannot write in glowing about programmes she missed. But surely the infuriating is an exaggeration; infuriating would apply if I were to write an entire series a reader missed, such as *Word of Mouth*, xample. This is a real gem series that Radio 4 puts it on the air on a Tuesday. I did this week's was the of the series. I have to write about *Word of Mouth* throughout its six-run, but each time something else got in the way. It is not for a desire not to rate Mrs Davies of Nuncheon (as how Scott reportale-negatives are catching I would write at length in *Word of Mouth*, which error language and the

RADIO: The
foibles of
language are a
matter for Word
of Mouth

way we use and abuse it. But for Mrs Davies's structure, I would feel compelled to mention an item this week about the copycat language habits of the business sector, with Toys 'R Us spawning various soundalikes which have in turn provoked writs from Toys 'R Us. My own view is that somebody ought to sue Toys 'R Us for its appalling influence on the spelling habits of children, but that is another matter. The programme also had Alan Coren, my colleague at

The Times, in the studio to judge a listener contest seeking some of the more, er, infuriating uses of the language, though Coren himself came up with some of the better ones. Such as "a level playing field". As both sides have to play on it, why does it need to be level? The great thing about *Word of Mouth*, Mrs Davies, is that it makes us think about the language, something we spend too little time doing. And not just about words but about accents, too. There was a nice studio enactment this week of two women talking, one white from London, the other black from London. The interesting part was that it was the white woman who used West Indian argot and the black one who spoke like a traditional Eastender, because those were the respective environments in which each was brought up. They perfectly illustrated that racial stereotyping is in the ears as well as in the eyes.

Dear me, Mrs Davies, I seem to have written at length about *Word of Mouth* after all. There are two reasons: one is that Radio 4 confirmed to me this week that *Word of Mouth* will be returning in the same lunchtime slot in August, so infuriated readers will be able to pencil it in. The other is by way of proving that this column may infuriate readers, but it would not dream of poking fun at them. I quote from Mrs Davies: "Why don't you write about programmes I never miss, such as *Word of Mouth*?" I remain, madam, your obedient servant.

PETER BARNARD

SNAP VERDICT

Every week on MovieWatch young film fans discuss new releases. Today's panel comes from South Wales...

WHEN SATURDAY COMES
Alex Thomas, 20: Beer, football, lads leaning at women in the pub: I can relate to all that. Catherine Lewis, 23: Bored, books and male bonding. No tension, and you know exactly what was going to happen. If you had drunk 14 cans of lager you could still get the plot. Sam Morgan, 23: The best bits were the pub scenes: the blokes telling dirty jokes. Natalie Faulkner, 20: It was predictable but you could still enjoy it. Emily Lloyd was useless but Sean Bean made it.

LA MADRE MUERTA
Catherine: A really gothic, edge-of-the-seat thriller. Sam: It did go on too long, but it was great. You were sucked



La Madre Muerta: a gothic, edge-of-the-seat thriller, and very different from the average psycho movie

into it. The characters were really nasty, evil psychotics, but you still liked them. Natalie: A fantastic, heavy film; really different from your run-of-the-mill psycho movies. Alex: I found it far too disturbing. The evil goes on and on.

FRENCH TWIST
Sam: The French as a nation are unfunny, and when they put it on film it's even worse. This is what happens when the government gives too much money to film-makers. Natalie: Utterly unbelievable. Alex: Absolutely pathetic. All the lesbians were portrayed as prisoners from Cell Block H. Catherine: Awful. And it parodied serious lesbian issues.

STRANGE DAYS
Natalie: An amazing film. So much happening at once. Alex: At the start I was a bit bored, but then it took off: I was on the edge of my seat. Sam: The setting, New Year's Eve 1999, was brilliant, and the music was great. Catherine: It was fast and frenetic but I didn't feel drawn into it. All the ideas about virtual reality and stolen dreams were too technical.

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THEATRE 1

Not quite a complete Coward: Peter Bowles opens in a new staging of *Present Laughter*



THEATRE 2

With Phillip Schofield in the dreamcoat, *Joseph* comes bouncing back, as larkly as ever

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 3

Another classic film spoilt? The Crucible's *La Dolce Vita* is but a sad echo of Fellini



OPERA

Covent Garden continues to fine-tune its controversial *Twilight of the Gods*

THEATRE: Missing the point of the Master's alter-ego; over the top again with the Bible; a flashy farrago of Fellini

Hungry for ham and ego

Present Laughter
Aldwych

Noël Coward created the character of the actor Garry Essendine, played it when *Present Laughter* was first staged in 1942, and later confessed that, yes, it was essentially a portrait of himself. And when Peter Bowles is patrolling his exotic cream-and-gold pad in a silk dressing-gown, exuding debonair charm and svelte charisma, you can certainly believe it. He is Coward, plus a tiny black moustache, plus a certain steely aloofness, plus an odd, interesting melancholy somewhere inside.

But Garry was never quite Coward, nor was Coward quite Garry. Can you imagine the fastidious Master spending 18 months playing the title-role in a period piece called *The Lost Cavalier*? Garry is variously described in *Present Laughter* as flamboyant, overbearing, posturing, glittering, a show-off, God, and someone who cannot help overacting whether he is on the stage or off it. In short, he has more in common with Judith Bliss, the egomaniac actress who is at the centre of *Hay Fever*, than with the shrewd, kindly man I recall treating a rumbledown press corps with scrupulous politeness when I was a young back in Manchester back in the 1960s.

It is the part of Coward which is not Garry that Bowles fails to catch at the Aldwych, and unfortunately it is rather a large part. Whenever he is required to be cool, incisive and a bit formidable, he scores strongly. Whenever he is asked to be a self-obsessed, self-glorifying thespian, he becomes forced and awkward.

This means that lines which should vult humbly and hilariously across the footlights — "Mr Essendine spends his whole life understanding absolutely everything, and the strain of it all is driving him step by step to a suicide's grave" — do not take off at all.

Nor does Richard Olivier's revival achieve lift-off itself. Everywhere Garry faces pressures, mostly of his own making, that can and should be highly comic. Visitor after visitor comes to embarrass, pester or berate him: the starry-eyed girl he has seduced; the appallingly earnest young playwright he has been too vain to turn away; the sexy siren who is married to one of his best friends and having an affair with the other; the two men themselves, both boiling with indignation. All this happens on the evening before he leaves for a longish tour of Africa.

But the supporting cast is pretty uneven in quality and, worse, works too hard to amuse us. For instance, wouldn't it be more real and therefore funnier if David Arnel gave us the young playwright Coward actually created, with his insecurity and "gruff defiance", rather than a goofy eccentric



From left: Peter Bowles as Garry Essendine, Deborah Grant (Liz Essendine) and David Arnel (Roland Maule)

who capers about like a chimp on speed? Olivier's production could certainly be more subtly observant. When he injects bits of broadish business into the action he gives the impression of mistaking the play.

But since I recall making much the same point when Tom Conti revived it in 1993, perhaps the play is no longer trustworthy? I refuse to believe so. *Present Laughter* has its serious side, touching as it does on such subjects as

the cost of charm to the charmer and of fame to the celebrity, and it has its mischievous one. Garry is, or should be, part of the line of attractive Coward monsters that began with the Bliss family and the wayward protagonists of *Private Lives*, continued through the bohemian trio in *Design for Living*, and ended with Elvira, the poltergeist in *Blithe Spirit*.

They are all selfish, erratic, a bit childish, unreliable, difficult, even

maddening; but equally they are all stylish, witty and fun. Their fellow characters find it impossible to live with them and hard to live without them. And in the theatre they are, or can be, terrific company. But it will, I fear, take a better production of *Present Laughter* than this to prove that Garry Essendine merits top billing in this jester's pantheon.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

WELL, here it is again, if only for two months at this venue. Steven Pimlott's Palladium production of five years ago is back, with Phillip Schofield donning the pretty jacket again. He also gets to wear other fancy clobber, including a fetchingly short Egyptian skirt that is never quite pulled off him by Potiphar's Wife.

It was always a larkly show. The 23-year-old Tim Rice must have written the snappy lyrics with his tongue dug deep in his cheek, and the 19-year-old Andrew Lloyd Webber's sense of fun — not easy to locate in his recent work — came bubbling forth in catchy tunes. They gave us the jolliest show down for the brothers celebrating the presumed end of Joseph, a calypso for Judah, an apache number, something Greek, something Jewish, and of course the Elvis take-off for a white-suited, amply-fed Pharaoh (fairly incomprehensibly sung by Chris Holland, but then you don't listen to Elvis for lessons in diction).

Pimlott's direction follows the principle that if you go over the top once you might as well go over it a dozen times more. Often his effects are beguiling. Jacob's shaggy white sheep come circling in on the revolve in an early scene, and a bit later reappear, this time in the seven colours of the rainbow. When the seven lean years are laying waste to the Middle East the sheep make a last entrance, now as skeletons that collapse into heaps of bones.

Usually the staging and choreography (Anthony van Laar) bear some relation to

This dream will do

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Apollo, W6

the concurrent mood of the story, even when sending up the serious tone of the biblical original with a display of high-spirited, 1960s irreverence. But the jollity that ends the first half is meaningless except

as a device to send the audience out on a bounce. Joseph is stuck in his prison cell when a mob of fugitives from *Hair* and *Godspell* burst in and get such a good beat going that a grinning Jo is last seen draped in a Technicolor garland of flowers. All this to make us feel inclined to go out and buy ice-cream at £1.70 a tub.

But the chorus of youngsters sings with crispness and clarity; likewise the narration by Ria Jones, resplendent in arm-length epaulettes. Schofield is pleasant to listen to and nice to look at, although he overdoes the girl-shy youth behaviour.

For the 20-minute "Mega-mix" of reprises, lights rock through all the colours of the spectrum. The music is thunderous, the movement never stops. The Creation must have been like this, although possibly not as loud.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Phillip Schofield dons the Technicolor dreamcoat again

Less decadent than rotten

La Dolce Vita
Crucible, Sheffield

Glass's revision, far less subtle about the influence of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, is a sorry falling off from the film. The original dialogue is frequently extended, spoiling its economy and tantalising suggestiveness. The added songs are embarrassingly incoherent. Is this Broadway pastiche or is

corpus and lyricist Paul Sand just churning out flashy routine numbers? Meanwhile, gone are the visual splendours of ancient ruins and flashy motifs: "That's not a car," yells an easily impressed woman. "That's an apartment." Well, no. It is three wooden chairs. Although the costumes are chic, the bare monochrome set looks low-budget.

Our new Marcello, Gerard Casey, may be a good-looking chap but has none of the complexities of Mastroianni, who could convey masculine cool, a whisper of effeminacy and hints of a sad clown in a single close-up. Francis Manton's paparazzo is probably more memorable, prancing around like a tabloid thug who fancies himself in *West Side Story*.

Laurie Carter Rose's slimline Sylvia captures the comic dumbness of the big screen blonde, but has none of the voluptuousness of Anita Ekberg's impossible icon. This musical makes no space for the slow movements and silence by which the film suggests that this Italy exists in some realm of the imagination. Glass's version is just faintly hellish.

KATE BASSETT

Ring newly polished

OPERA

Götterdämmerung
Covent Garden

THOSE who don't respond to Richard Jones's anarchic production of *The Ring* will probably remain unconvinced by Tuesday's revival of the final, most intractable segment — intractable because we haven't quite caught up with Wagner's prophetic time-scale yet, still being stuck somewhere in the middle of the second act. But those who do respond will be fascinated by Jones's adjustments to the staging since it was new four months ago. Brünnhilde's immolation, in particular, has been completely rethought: it is simpler, clearer and slightly more encouraging in that it seems to suggest that we re-run the action following Brünnhilde's awakening and try to make a better job of it this time.

There will doubtless be further adjustments here and in the other three operas, which increases impatience for the first complete cycles in the autumn. That will be the time to start to come to terms with — or reject — Jones's vision. As it is, few could fail to respond to the sheer horror of the society he presents to us, the decadence of the Gibichung rulers, the violence, the drink, the brutalisation of women. Impatience for the autumn is mingled with a certain dread. Meanwhile, the musical performance goes from strength to strength. Bernard Haitink cut five minutes or more off the running time of the first act, which put the catering staff in a tizzy and increased dramatic impetus



Anne Evans's Brünnhilde radiates spiritual beauty

without sacrificing a jot of the musical expressiveness or sensuous beauty of sound that characterise his Wagner.

Cast changes brought their own shifts of emphasis. Donald Maxwell was less of a prat than his predecessor as Gunther, altogether more formidable a figure. The new Siegfried, Wolfgang Fassler, has a bright, slightly unyielding tone and stamina. Although nervous at first, he started to sing beautifully in the last act and weathered a minor accident heroically. He embodies Jones's Jack-the-ladish view of the character with a certain charm. Kurt Rydl (Hagen) was in far more

flexible voice than in the autumn, and suggested the personal tragedy behind the man's granite exterior. No one has a choice of parents.

But the focal point of the performance was Anne Evans's Brünnhilde. For insight into the meaning of the words, for the shaping of each phrase, for the warmth of her embodiment of femininity she is matchless. For sheer decisiveness you may have to look elsewhere, but I would rather settle for the spiritual beauty and radiant musical intelligence that emanate from her. So, I suspect, would Wagner.

RODNEY MILNES

SINFONIA 21's programmes always show enterprise, its current season at Smith Square is no exception, with four premieres included alongside imaginatively chosen works both old and new — and, in collaboration with *The Times*, audience response is being monitored through questionnaires.

The programming seems to be based on the principle of sweetening the pill, mixing contemporary pieces with well-loved music. But on Tuesday, the best-known work was also the least interesting: Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*. It received a rhapsodic performance from just 13 players, a small enough ensemble to remind one of its domestic origins. Martyn Brabbins, the conductor, kept the music from wallowing, but was unable to disguise the fact that it takes a long time to say rather little.

Much more beguiling was Berg's arrangement of the Johann Strauss waltz *Wine*.

Having given the first performance of her monumental *Chantres* two or three years ago, the BBC Philharmonic knows that Judith Bingham thinks big and that she also thinks mystic. But the sheer size and expressive ambition of her latest orchestral work, *Beyond Redemption*, must have exceeded even this orchestra's expectations.

Certainly, *Beyond Redemption* is a challenging score. It is demanding in the number and variety of instruments it requires, in the time needed for its preparation, and in faith it requires in the quality of its inspiration. On its first performance — by the BBC PO under its principal conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier in Manchester (and on Radio 3) earlier this month — *Beyond Redemption*

NEW MUSIC

Signs of things to come

Sinfonia 21
St John's

Woman and Song. The scoring, for string quartet, piano and harmonium, reflects that it too was designed for domestic performance, and the six Sinfonia members relished its intimacy while dispatching it with Viennese verve.

The Canadian soprano Valérie Anderson was striking in *Sequenza III*, Berio's concise one-woman show of coloratura singing, coughs,

sobs, laughter and onomatopoeic sounds. Her strong, silvery tone was heard to good effect in *Song Offerings* by Jonathan Harvey. This 1985 score takes four Rabindranath Tagore poems, although the lush settings do not always help the words to come across. Harvey's music captures the spirituality and sensuality of the lines, but is not always engaging, sounding at times like Herbert Howells via short-wave radio.

In its first British performance, Kage's *Phantastisch* proved a rich, exciting piece. It is scored for flute and piano, with a separate layer of music for an accompanying ensemble that can be omitted. At St John's the ensemble was placed in the gallery, providing musical and acoustic contrasts to the sparkling, witty dialogue the pianist Julian Robb was engaged in at the front.

JOHN ALLISON

Not beyond redemption

BBC PO/Tortelier
Free Trade Hall

was a challenge to the audience, too. The problem lies not so much in its language, which has much in common with that of Messiaen's *Turangallia Symphony*, but in its construction.

All in one movement and not far short of half an hour long, it recedes further and further from comprehension as episode succeeds episode and impressions accumulate without falling into any kind of detectable shape. *Chantres* is more realistically constructed and much more successful in that respect.

Recurse to the composer's programme note on the new work, which sets the scene in

Bram Stoker's *Carpathian Mountains* and which invokes Marian prophecies of the Second World War and visions of aggression beyond redemption, is of little help. With every new horror story, the returns from stamping rhythms and from orchestral writing at the strident extremes — the brass is particularly prominent, both on and off the stage — inevitably diminish.

It would be difficult to know where to begin in revising *Beyond Redemption* but there is so much in it that is spontaneous in expression, individual in conception and dramatic in sound that it would surely be worth rescuing it by recasting it in some other form.

GERALD LARNER

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هكمان النجل

Absent minded memory

MEMOIR, it would seem, is the genre of the moment: impressionistic autobiographical recollections, once the province of the aged and the famous, now flow from the pens of the young and the very young. The requisite for such accounts is all too often a difficult childhood, ideally combined with an intimate knowledge of alcoholism or depression.

With his gentle book *Speak Sunlight*, Alan Jolis, a novelist who has reached the august age of 43, bucks the trend. The title's Nabokovian echo is not wholly misleading: like *Invitation of a Beheading*, a privileged past, in which a pre-pubescent polyglot is exposed to delights many will not know in a lifetime. Jolis, however, has a distinct purpose: his book is largely a hymn to the Spanish housekeeper, Maruja, who raised him, and to her butler husband, Manolo.

Although born in the United States, Jolis spent his childhood in Paris, the youngest son of affluent — but not, it would seem, contented — parents. The little boy sunbathed in Franco's Spain, in the care



Jolis: a love song in which the lover remains invisible

Claire Messud

SPEAK SUNLIGHT
By Alan Jolis
Harcourt Brace, £15

of Maruja and Manolo, and in the company of a host of Spanish cousins. Jolis père et mère are all but invisible in this account, as are Alan's brothers: the boy's experiences in Spain, from the Galician baronies of Maruja's family to the elegance of Jolis's uncles' homes in Madrid, were those of an orphan.

Maruja, herself childless, doted on little Alan — or Alfonso, as Jolis names his character in the book — and Jolis captures some charming

details about their unconditional bond. To his childhood self, however, Maruja's most notable characteristic was her obesity. The book opens by informing us that "Her pudgy cheeks, double chin, have no age", and Jolis returns relentlessly throughout to her puffing plumpness and her straining buttons. Even her feet are fat. This excess goes hand in hand with an exuberant temperament; her husband Manolo, meanwhile, is scrawny, taciturn and henpecked.

Jolis captures these basic outlines, but both Maruja and Manolo ultimately remain stereotypes of Mediterranean peasantry. Unknowable in their private lives to Jolis the child, they continue to be so in

his adult reconstruction: while the little boy in no way patronised his housekeeper (and, indeed, was irate when his aunts did so), he was also never able to penetrate beyond her role as a servant. Jolis, fussy, proud, Maruja as Jolis conjures her lacks the complexity that, in life, she must surely have had. And yet she emerges more clearly than her husband, of whom one can only say with certainty that his character was weak and his sense of humour lewd.

Jolis cheerfully concedes that his young Spanish cousins — all of them girls — were indistinguishable to him: "I can tell them apart, but just barely." When he was twelve, they provided his first moments of sexual awakening, but they did so apparently without revealing a single personality trait. Even the young Jolis himself, alias Alfonso, remains murky and unformed, a shadow of a self.

Speak Sunlight is a memoir without characters, a love song in which the lover remains invisible. Jolis does, however, successfully convey his passion for Spanish landscapes, and the book contains vivid snippets about trailing through tapas bars, flamenco dancing and running with the bulls in Pamplona. It is a shame that Jolis's recollections, so evidently suffused with love, do not translate better onto the page. One would hate to think that only horrible childhoods make good books.

Peter Ackroyd on a poetic partnership of pride and prejudice

Inspiration from a bitter muse

In the newly published *Concordance* to T.S. Eliot's plays and poems (edited by J.L. Dawson, P.D. Holland and D.J. McKitterick, Faber, £55), there are three references to Jews — two of them contemptuous. There are more allusions in his prose, both published and unpublished: so there can be little doubt that he was deeply and, for a time, bitterly anti-Semitic. In fact Anthony Julius, in his intriguing critical study (*T.S. Eliot: Anti-Semitism and Literary Form*, Cambridge University Press, £30), makes a coherent case for Eliot as the greatest anti-Semitic poet of the 20th century. Anti-Semitism was, as he puts it, "Eliot's muse".

Of course he was a man of his time, when Jewish caricatures were being paraded in dumb show through the various forms of journalism and cheap fiction. Yet, in Julius's account, Eliot did not borrow lazily or complacently from the prejudices of the period: he renovated them, refined them, and polished them into the glittering material of his art.

His own temperament must play a part here, if his biographers are to be trusted, and it seems that he possessed a threatened and unsettled personality which, in the cant terms of a more recent period, might be labelled "paranoid". He attacked whatever intimidated him, and his assault upon Jews (perhaps also upon the blacks of the pornographic *King Bolo* and *His Great Black Queen*) is matched only by what Julius describes as his "struggle with women" and "the feminine-chaotic principle". Eliot's "jews" — he characteristically used the lower letter — are "free-thinking", watery, protozoic, while the poet himself tried to remain light, immobile and unfractured.

The poetry emerges fully armed from that somewhat anxious temperament: it is in a proper sense the constrained expression of Eliot's bewildered sensibility, with its dissonant fragments and allusions held together by an act of formal poetic will. That is why there is no way in which we can dissociate Eliot's works of genius from his offensive private feelings. As Julian remarks in this convincing account, his anti-Semitism was "positively empowering".

Yet it is also important to examine Eliot's wider cultural assumptions and affiliations. That is why Julius goes on to suggest that his anti-Semitism was international in its scope: his prejudice conflated American elitism with English populism and French intellectualism.

It is no accident that, as a young man, he should have been much taken by the proto-fascism of Charles Maurras's *Action Française*. But the connections go much deeper. In 1913 Maurras was known to be "classique, catholique, monarchique", and in turn Eliot soon



1895: T.S. Eliot with his nursemaid, Annie Dunne

remind us that a great poet can "make art out of the sufferings of others", but in Eliot we also have the spectacle of a poet whose prejudices were inflexible, elaborate and pernicious. This is a refreshing analysis of recent cultural history, and a rare indignation and power of synthesis. It is all the more chilling, then, that he should eventually characterise Eliot as a "man without pity".

Of course, in subsequent years he displayed plenty of a more orthodox or public kind, which is the point where John Xipros Cooper picks up the narrative, in *T.S. Eliot and the Ideology of The Four Quartets* (Cambridge University Press, £35). Julius has directed his attention to the earlier poems, such as *Gerontion* and *The Waste Land*, while Cooper considers such later works as *Four Quartets* and *The Family Re-*

union. He is primarily concerned with Eliot's social ideology, specifically as an unacknowledged spokesman for the "mandarin" class of intellectuals and servants of the State.

There are times when his conclusions resemble those of Julius, particularly when he writes of Eliot's distaste for "an institutional order contaminated by liberal-humanist ideas", but he is more generally interested in the poet as "the public moralist, the duty aggressive controversialist, the contented social climber and, above all, the successful London editor and publisher".

There was, indeed, a sea change. During the 1920s and 1930s Eliot became a respected "modern" poet, as elusive as he was difficult; by the end of the 1950s he was a "celebrity" whose somewhat vague and inconsistent pronouncements were treated with considerable respect.

In fact, Cooper suggests that Eliot planned his career with as much care and patience as he formulated the drafts of his later poetry. Certainly it would be true to say that he had already successfully ambushed the academic establishment, with a series of startling critical theories which seemed to elucidate his own poetry, and as a publisher he was also able to create the literary climate in which his own work could most usefully be placed. His role at Faber and Faber enabled him to popularise the exponents of modernism and to form the careers of such "second generation" poets as W.H. Auden.

It is in this context that Cooper places *Four Quartets*, arguably the poem which did most to secure Eliot's public reputation. In an interesting if on occasions over-deterministic reading, he presents it as a work which reconstructs, or reinvents, a moral sensibility for a postwar world marked by nihilism or disillusion.

It is a poem of private belief and public submissiveness, promoting a form of willed internal exile or alienation: the public and private worlds are separated by Eliot so that, according to Cooper, the servant of the State can act in one while retaining his integrity in the other. Culture, therefore, is a form of detachment. Poetry, as Auden once wrote, "makes nothing happen". This might be called the patrician attitude towards literature, translated more popularly as "don't rock the boat".

It is instructive to find two critical books that investigate Eliot's public role in so provocative and convincing a manner. It is too early to say whether such attention will eventually diminish or enlarge Eliot's poetic reputation, but Julius and Cooper have managed to throw a suggestive light upon a writer who has for too long been understood — and accepted — upon his own terms. There is only one mention in the *Concordance* of "repentance".

Drama and detection

Bruce Boucher

GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE
Metal Sculpture of the Roman Baroque.
By Jennifer Montagu
Yale, £40



Moses, now attributed to Jacob Cobeart (c 1600) from the church of S. Luigi del Frangente in Rome

Rome may be the Baroque city par excellence, but for every visitor who marvels at Bernini's *St Teresa* or the great *Baldacchino* there are tens of thousands who only gawk at the Sistine Chapel or the temples of the Forum. Swirling drapery and religious ardour still strike a chilly note with most tourists, and even those well disposed towards Baroque art rarely look beyond the great tombs and marble statuary.

Jennifer Montagu's *Gold, Silver and Bronze* draws our attention away from the major to the minor Roman masters of the early 17th century, from marble to metalwork and the decorative arts. Above all, her book deals with what could be called the tuncat of art, with the space between an artist's initial idea and its completion — in some cases, simplification — by other craftsmen.

This is familiar ground from the author's earlier studies of Algardi and the industrial nature of the Roman Baroque, but her exclusive focus on metalwork recalls the importance of an artform once esteemed as the equal of fresco-painting or marble carving but now marginalised in most surveys of Renaissance and later art. Not all Baroque art was large-scale, and great attention was lavished on silver mirror frames, gold chalices, and baptismal fonts smothered in lapis lazuli, rare marbles and gilt bronze.

Unfortunately, our appreciation of these objects is diminished by their general disappearance after 1796, when French occupying forces held the Papacy in ransom: their demand for silver led to the literal liquidation of the Church's assets. But enough still remains to gauge what has been lost, and as a dedicated sleuth, Jennifer Montagu has assembled fascinating documentation on silver plates, golden medals and bronze reliquaries.

In fact, some sculptures illustrated here — four seated prophets from an elaborate tabernacle in the church of

San Luigi dei Francesi — were recovered after a theft with the author's help. Her fine eye is particularly attuned to the alterations necessary when an artist's conception had to be translated into a repoussé dish or, as she would put, between the two dimensions of a drawing and the two and one-half dimensions of a silver relief.

The most enjoyable episodes in the book come with the author's elucidation of diplomatic negotiations and lawsuits surrounding metalwork ordered for the fabulously wealthy Portuguese king, John V. Chicane and dubious intermediaries abounded as the spiritual needs of a pious court responded to the financial straits of Benedict XIV. The papal curia was on to a good thing, but Roman

founders like Giuseppe Gagliardi went bankrupt casting silver statues after complex instructions from Lisbon.

Eventually a whole chapel and its liturgical kit was ordered from Rome, the metalwork alone rivaling the cost of a small church. Fortunately it survives, and its artistic sources are skilfully unravelled by Montagu. *Gold, Silver and Bronze* is not all picaresque tales, but the author's extensive knowledge of her subject is illuminating, her text well served by a handsome corpus of photographs, all garnished with her customary dry wit.

Bruce Boucher's *Andrea Palladio: The Architect in his Time* is published by Abbeville Press

The birth of the dragon

Gerald Harriss

THE REVOLT OF OWAIN GLYN DWR
By R.R. Davies
OUP, £20

AT THE conclusion of his biography of Owen Glendower in 1931, J.E. Lloyd acclaimed him as "the father of modern Welsh Nationalism". Little more about Glyn Dwr's life has subsequently been discovered but the revolution in historical method over the past 50 years has enabled Professor Rees Davies to present the Welsh Revolt, and hence the figure of Glyn Dwr, himself, in a new light.

As his own researches have made clear, Wales in the 14th century was a colonial society. Its land was divided into great lordships held by the Crown and the English aristocracy, normally absentees, whose monopoly of economic, military and judicial power enabled them to mulct the native population and transfer vast sums to England for their personal consumption.

Not merely were the Welsh peasantry and squires reduced to poverty but their status as *untermenschen* was enforced by exclusion from English law, English land, and all but very local offices. Wales, as Davies vividly delineates it, was two societies, not merely economically and le-

gally but geographically, linguistically and culturally. The Wales of English castles, boroughs and settlement in the southern lowlands had little contact with, or knowledge of, the Welsh Wales of the upland centre and north. Indeed, by turning their backs on each other they had managed to live at peace for over a century after Edward I's conquest. And then on September 16, 1400, Glyn Dwr's revolt came, as Davies says, "like a bolt from the blue".

Why is not entirely clear. It was certainly not a peasant rising against lords, like that of 1381 in England or the *Jacquerie* in France. It was started by Glyn Dwr's family and friends, who proclaimed

him Prince of Wales, and was directed against the English settlements. Who was Owain Glyn Dwr? In Welsh society he was heir to the princely dynasties of Deheubarth and Powys and successor to that of Gwynedd; incontestably the princely leader of the Welsh people. In English society his modest livelihood did not even qualify him for the rank of knight.

The ambiguity of his status embodied the predicament of all the Welsh *uchelwyr* or "high men": whether to take service with English lords as a means to advancement and greater wealth, or to live proudly and obscurely among their own countrymen. Glyn Dwr had chosen the latter, until he saw his lands threatened by his English neighbour Lord Grey of Ruthin.

But if his revolt sprang from a personal quarrel, its conversion into a national movement would depend on the support of others of his class. Professor Rees Davies's researches have

thrown new light on their careers and motivation. A few responded to Owain's call from the start, but many who held local office like Henry Don at Kidwelly and Maredudd ab Owain at Aberystwyth joined only when the tide of Welsh success swept them along.

As it spread, the revolt gained its own impetus and meaning. In attempting to analyse and explain that meaning Rees Davies draws on native insights and a deep familiarity with Welsh literature and oral tradition. He stresses the intensely localised character of the revolt, its dependence on family ties and loyalties, its objectives conceived as much in terms of prophecy as military strategy, and its momentum sustained by the legends of bards and minstrels. Guerrilla warfare could quickly loosen the English hold outside the fortresses, but ultimately the Welsh lacked the manpower, technology and supplies to reduce



Glyn Dwr: hero of legend

these or to meet the English on their own ground.

Yet there was an even more fatal flaw in Welsh aspirations. They could repudiate English rule, but could they replace it with a nation ruled by themselves? Rees Davies believes not. For Welshmen "Wales was no more than a state of mind" — not an organised state as the 14th century knew it. Under pressure from his Oxford-trained advisers Glyn Dwr dreamt one up. It was to have a

parliament, a national church, two universities, and it was to extend into the border shires. For a time, with backing from the Percies, the Scots, and the French, Glyn Dwr's Principality acquired some credibility; but as the English revanche began, his allies fell away.

WHAT HAD it left behind? A trail of destruction, and the ruin of Glyn Dwr's family and many others. But also the weakening of English lordship and the surrender of local power to a new generation of "high men" from whom sprang the Welsh squararchy of Tudor times. It was not for such that Glyn Dwr met his end, unreconciled and uncaptured, some time in 1415, while his erstwhile followers were fighting alongside Henry V at Agincourt.

Not as the father of modern Welsh nationalism, nor even as would-be Prince of Wales, is Glyn Dwr to be remembered, in Rees Davies's view, but as the timeless hero of legend and the symbol of Welsh identity. Such is the conclusion of this perceptive and original anatomy of the Revolt of Owain Glyn Dwr.

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England's game plan focuses on Townsend

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER England's game plan for the five nations' championship meeting with Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday, much of their focus will be directed towards Gregor Townsend. As his squad gathered in Richmond yesterday, Will Carling, the England captain, emphasised the influence the Northampton stand-off half will have on Scottish hopes of a grand slam.

"A lot of their game revolves around Townsend," Carling said. "He is not in the kicking mould of Craig Chalmers, he plays very flat and has made the team play in a different way. Ian Smith, on the open side flank, links with him and the others play off him very well."

The irony for England is that Townsend, a centre with Northampton, will be opposed by his club colleague, Paul Grayson, who does wear the No 10 shirt at Northampton. Grayson and his partner, Matthew Dawson, have had a substantial input to the England preparations this week, which continued yesterday at the Bank of England ground in Roehampton.

Unusually for a Wednesday, England trained in private (allowing for the fact that a club match was in progress on an adjacent pitch), on the day details of their contracts with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) became public. Since those contracts include a clause by which players agree not to indulge in any other professional sport or other sport, activity or practice that may endanger his fitness or ability to play international rugby, it was with some annoyance that RFU administrators heard of plans by some squad members to spend yesterday evening go-karting.

The contracts also include a code of conduct which leaves players liable to disciplinary hearings in the event of such diverse unauthorised activities as broadcasting or writing in a defamatory way of opponents or the RFU, the sale of match tickets or passes, or failing a drugs test.

"The contract is player friendly," Tony Haller, the

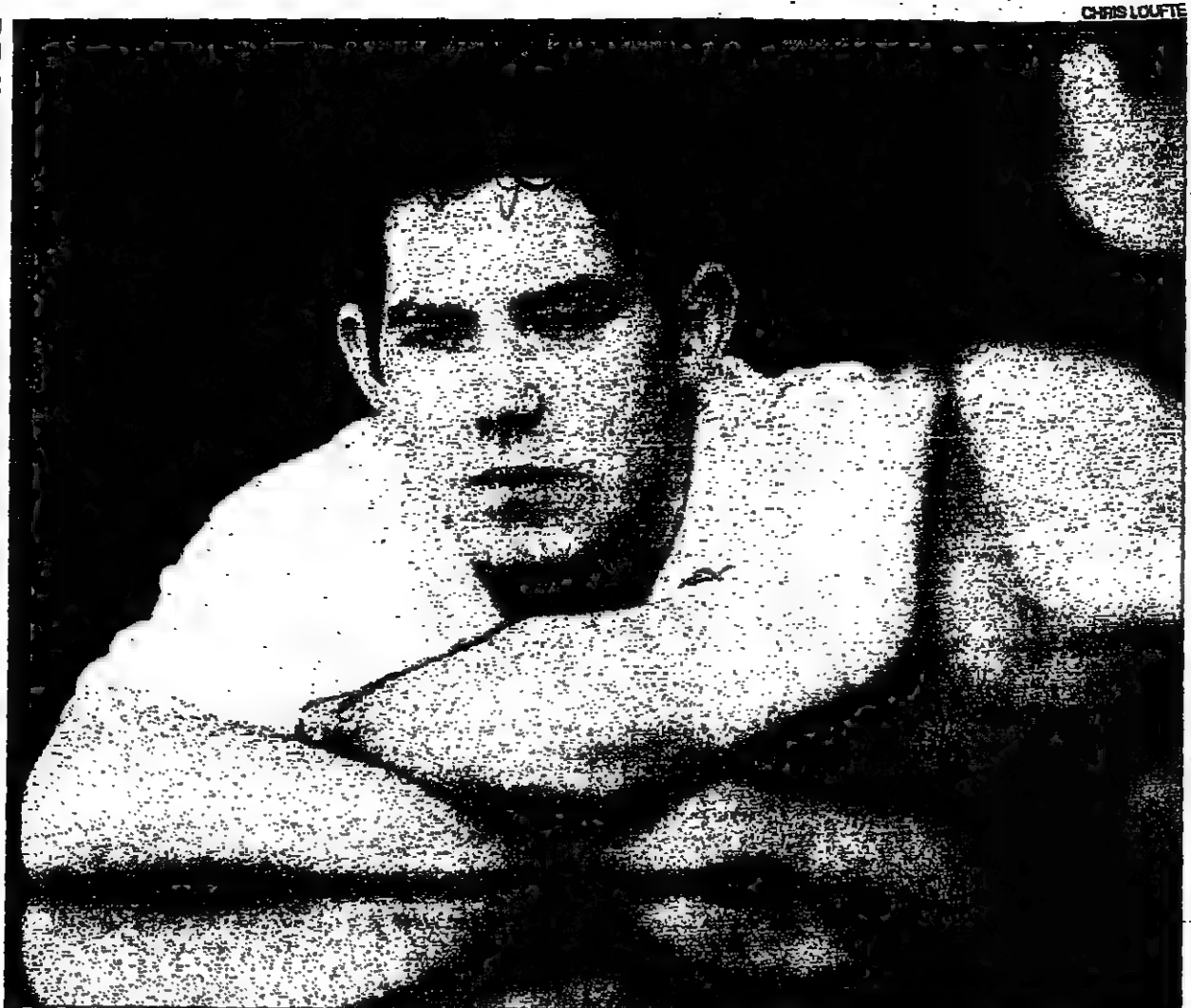
RFU secretary, said. "We are looking after them in many ways, including an attractive financial package. The players remain in constant touch with officials to ensure that changing circumstances are taken into account."

It is the commercial opportunities open to England squad players which will extend the tension between the RFU and the leading clubs, who seek primacy of contract between themselves and their players. Most clubs will not be able to offer comparable opportunities to those available to an international player, quite apart from the International Rugby Football Board regulation that gives national unions primary access to players.

This will not stop the leading clubs endeavouring to structure their own competitions, however, from which they may draw substantial financial benefit. Clubs are understood to be considering ways forward next season that could include European and Anglo-Welsh rugby at the expense of the existing Courage and Heineken leagues.

The Welsh first division clubs meet in Cardiff on Tuesday to debate the latest proposals, of which two options would mean the abolition of first division matches in Wales and England. Club administrators seek to remove the predictability of the present season in which a handful of clubs in Wales — Cardiff, Llanelli, Neath, Pontypridd and Swansea — and two in England, Bath and Leicester, tend to dominate.

Not that England's squad had money on their mind yesterday. Jack Rowell, the manager, described them as relaxed and looking forward to a match in which success offers at least the prospect of a triple crown season. "Our motivation comes from the group or it is not there at all," Rowell said. "People do ascribe amazing powers to the coach or manager. Our theme is to go to Scotland and enjoy the occasion. The Scots are clear favourites, going for famous victories, and all credit to them."



Mason will be hoping his kicks for goal capture favourable winds against Wales at Lansdowne Road on Saturday

Scouser aims to be toast of Ireland

Christopher Irvine meets a student who has graduated to international rugby

A Scouse accent, as opposed to a brogue, is the gateway to Simon Mason's birth on the wrong side of the Irish Sea. Grandparents are the passport for the Orrell full back to the Ireland side, to which the home supporters will add honorary citizenship on Saturday, should his goal kicks catch the winds at Lansdowne Road, in Dublin, and sink Wales in the five nations' championship.

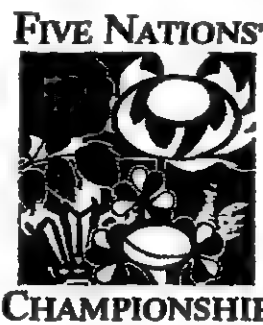
For the match against Scotland last month, he was a face in the Dublin crowd. With Jim Staples concussed in Ireland's subsequent defeat by France, Mason's fast track promotion via the Irish Students and Ireland A side this season to his debut at senior level could induce pressure, but there is more Irish to Mason, 22, than meets the ear.

There is a happy-go-lucky trait to his character that probably stems from a childhood spent in Dublin. "I'm from Merseyside, but my roots are over there," Mason said. "It was always the emerald green I cheered on against England. It was never a case of me ever thinking it might be an easier option to getting a cap. It's everyone's dream to play for their country, and

mine is Ireland."

Jim's misfortune is my fortune, but he was the first person to congratulate me. His help has been invaluable. My only reservation is not to let myself or the side down, and I want to enjoy it. I know goal-kicking is a big responsibility, but it's often in the lap of the Man Above to guide the ball home — I'm praying hard."

Kieran, Ellwood, Campbell, Ward — the list of prodigious Irish kickers is long and illustrious. Not that Mason feels the weight of history. His place-kicking has been generally outstanding for Orrell, whom he joined from Newcastle last September, while the Lancashire side's new penchant for attack has released Mason from tactical shackles and helped to place him at the forefront of



the Irish selectors' minds.

"At Orrell, we'll have a go from any part of the pitch, which has helped get me noticed. Before, I was too willing to use my feet instead of coming into

the line, whereas it naturally goes through the hands now. The start to internationals are usually structured, but if it does open out on Saturday, I'll be ready," he said.

When news of his selection broke, Mason, a final-year student in building and surveying, thought it was Austin Healey, his Orrell team-mate, playing a joke. Mason, Healey, the England Under-21 scrum half, and Robin Saverimuttu, the Coventry and Ireland Under-21 scrum half, attend Leeds Metropolitan University, and have stuck together since school.

At St Aselm's, Birkenhead,

the trio were guided by Martin Regan, master in charge of rugby and the former Liverpool and England stand-off half. Mason was always the goal-kicker. "I was the one who tried to grab the ball and kick it," he said. "When I was seven, I can remember the thrill of my first kick over the posts. Playing football helped. There's an art to it; you can kick or you can't." In a season for Old Anselmians, his school's affiliated club, and where his father, a lock forward was secretary, Mason doubled the previous points record. His haul of 469 points is unlikely to be bettered at the club where he still trains and which had its one player to attain international status as guest-of-honour at a dinner.

"The green shirt will go up in the clubhouse," he said. "The lads there have always been there for me. They still wind me up at Old Anselmians Saturday nights if I don't get the beers in."

"The whole of Ireland will join in a chant: 'If Mason can help to put Wales to flight, Staples should have recovered for the final match, at Twickenham, on March 16, but the young Anglo-Irishman can make a good case for the future."

Committed flanker makes best of late acceptance

By MARK SOUSTER

SIX years ago, Ian Smith was the only Scot watching Scotland win the grand slam on a big screen at Gloucester rugby union club. When Tony Stanger scored the try, he alone stood up and cheered, and he has never let Mike Teague, his clubmate, forget that it was his knock-on that led to the scrum from which Scotland went over.

This time, Smith, not Teague, will be at Murrayfield, for what could be the crowning moment of a career which, at the age of 30, has belatedly burst into life.

After opting for Scotland five years ago — his father was from Aberdeen — Smith had been the understudy to a succession of Scottish No 7s, most latterly Iain Morrison. In the three years after his debut in 1992, he won only 11 caps. When Morrison retired after the World Cup, Smith seized his opportunity, and this season, has been a revelation.

Finlay Calder, the Scotland open-side flanker in 1990, is generous in his praise. "Ian Smith is the best open-side forward Scotland has ever had," he said. "That is speaking as a purist, and I know what I am looking for. He is instinctive and has speed about the park — incisive speed. If you roam around, you do not have the same impact. On top of everything else, he tackles well and keeps the game alive."

Smith smiles at the tribute. "I have had a few ups and downs over the past couple of years, so it is nice to come in and establish myself and get a good run," he said. "I think the side is playing a brand of rugby that suits me and hopefully it will continue."

The style emerged from the debris of defeat against Italy in January, a match that Scotland used as an experiment to develop a more fluid style. "You've got to be prepared to take a bloody nose in search of what you are trying to achieve," Smith said. "We did and it has worked."

After a disappointing World Cup, when his only appearance was against Ivory Coast, Smith felt particularly dejected. However, having discussed his situation with his wife, he decided on "one last season" to try to secure his international place. The commitment has paid off.

Jordan set sights high after striking new deal

By OLIVER HOYT

EVEN in the affluent world of Formula One motor racing, it still feels good to strike gold. The popular Jordan grand prix team will announce today that they have hit a rich seam and struck a sponsorship deal that should help them to make the great leap forward into the highest echelons of the sport.

The Irish team, sixth in the world championship last year, have sealed a long-term agreement with Benson and Hedges that will bring them an estimated £15 million this season alone.

It will mean more money to tempt the best drivers and the best technicians away from rival teams in seasons to come, more money to improve their cars and the season progresses, and the start of a concerted assault on the sport's leading names, Benetton, Williams, Ferrari and McLaren.

The Jordan drivers, Martin Brundle and Rubens Barrichello, have been performing well in pre-season tests at Estoril, Portugal, sometimes posting quicker times than the habitual pace-setters, Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve, in their Williams-Renaults.

Now the green of their cars, a symbol not only of their Irishness but their inexperience, will be changed for the ochre of their new sponsors, who have never been involved in Formula One before.

The team, owned by the charismatic Irishman, Eddie Jordan, only entered Formula One five years ago after a successful apprenticeship in the junior formulas.

In the past, Jordan drivers have occasionally set a fastest lap, won a pole position or finished on the podium. Now, with Benson and Hedges on board, a good two, two able drivers and improving Peugeot engines, the stage is set for another step forward.

"This year, we have got to win a race," Jordan said recently. "It is as simple as that. We have done everything else, we have got everything in position. It's the next logical step. We are not in a position to challenge the likes of Williams and Benetton for the world championship yet, but I hope we soon will be. Otherwise, there would be no point being in the sport."

SPORTS LETTERS

Illingworth must hold back

From Mr Duncan Demarco

Sir, I was concerned to read (report, February 27) about another public criticism by the England manager, Raymond Illingworth, of one of his team members, in this case the captain, Michael Atherton.

I was in South Africa for the first three weeks of the recent tour and occasionally had contact with members of the English team and its entourage. The atmosphere was good, expectations high and results positive. Even during those early days, however, Illingworth began publicly to criticise individuals. Since then, the criticism has not only continued, but increased.

While cricket is a team sport, it largely involves individual pressures, whether as batsman or bowler; temporary loss of form is commonplace at even the highest levels. Confidence is therefore important, and anything which undermines this confidence also affects the team results.

Illingworth's public criticisms, which would be equally unacceptable in business as in sport, have had a negative impact on the performance of the individuals criticised and hence of the team.

Illingworth has claimed for himself unique rights of selection and has justified this power by asserting that this will identify responsibility for failure. Accordingly, the disappointing results of the team have to be laid at his door.

I would hope that the body to which Illingworth reports will immediately instruct him to end these public criticisms. Supporters still have confidence in the team members, and I for one, would prefer to see Illingworth replaced rather than Atherton.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN G.W. DEMARCO,
Chemin du Pré d'Ogne 1,
1052 Le Mont-sur-Lausanne,
Switzerland.

Law sends out right signals

From Mr George Crawford

Sir, The imprisonment of the Gloucester player, Simon Devereux, again highlights the fact that a punch in a game of rugby is no different to one thrown outside the Rose and Crown on a Saturday night. Devereux's punch dispatched Jamie Cowie, of Rosslyn Park, to a hospital bed for five days after his jaw had been broken in three places.

Doubtless the minority who have criticised the nine-month sentence would have been equally critical of the judge if a member of their family had suffered a similar injury in the street and a more desirous sentence had been passed.

The defenders of the law have again made it clear that any mistaken belief that bodily contact sports contain a built-in licence to commit crime has been dispelled, as it was in 1977 when Regina v Billinghurst resulted in the first prosecution and conviction of a rugby footballer for assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Instead of making excuses for such behaviour, the rugby establishment should ensure that all players are aware of their responsibilities in this area and should "police" the game more stringently in order to eradicate such breaches of the criminal law. Rugby is a dangerous game where robust play within the laws of the game is often viewed with incredulity by the casual observer, so when a criminal act ends in the courts it has to be of the most grotesque kind before juries will convict.

If the law fails to send out the right signals, it does an injustice to the many thousands of decent sportsmen and women who turn out week after week on the understanding that they will be protected from a gratuitous punch or kick capable of destroying their lives or careers.

Yours etc.,
GEORGE CRAWFORD,
23 Crofton Close,
Worcester Park, Surrey.

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, In 1988, in Bristol Crown Court, the captain of a rugby club in that area was convicted by a jury of grievous bodily harm after breaking an opponent's cheekbone by kicking him on the ground during a course of play. His sentence was 18 months' imprisonment.

In 1994, on an Attorney-General's reference to the Court of Appeal Criminal Division of an "unduly lenient" two-years probation order at Gloucester Crown Court, after serious injuries caused during a game, the Lord Chief Justice, himself a former Northumberland player, said the idea must be scotched that anyone who intended serious harm could expect to avoid a custodial sentence and be put on probation in the hope that he would respond satisfactorily.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
EDWARD GRAYSON,
(President, British Association for Sport and Law),
9-12, Bell Yard, WC2.

From the Headmaster of Hordle House School

Sir, Mr Gadbury (Sports Letters, February 21) does not go far enough. Should all four of his teams be seeded to the FA Cup semi-finals (a laudable proposal), the problem will surely be which European competition they should enter. As semi-finalists they will

almost certainly qualify for the Cup Winners' Cup, as big clubs they will be invited to join the Champions' Cup and can you imagine the UEFA competition wanting to run without them?

Yours sincerely,
HENRY PHILLIPS,
Headmaster,
Hordle House School,
Millers-on-Sea,
Lymington, Hampshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes, when you hold A x x opposite K J x and the defence lead through the K J x, it is worth withholding the "free finesse" to make it inconvenient for the defence to organise their entries should the queen be over the jack. In the hand today, the declarer rightly recognised that as too mean a policy.

Dealer South Game all Rubber bridge

♠	K J 10 8 6	♥	Q 7 5 2
♦	Q 10 5	♣	K J 8 7
♠	Q 10 8 5 5 2	♥	A 10 8 2
♦	7 6 5	♣	A 10 8 2
♠	A 8 3	♥	A 8 3
♦	A 9 4	♣	A 8 3
♠	A 7 4	♥	A 8 3
♦	A 7 4	♣	A 8 3

Contract: 3 NT by South

South opened 1 NT (15-17) and North raised to 3 NT. It often works well to raise to 3 NT when you have a five card major suit in a 5-3-3-2, particularly when you do not have much to spare in the way of high cards.

West led the ten of diamonds. This was not the moment for a delicate duck — if South plays low from dummy and wins the ace in hand, he does not know how many diamond tricks he has. He put in the jack of diamonds which held the trick. Now, if the declarer can guess the spades, he will have nine tricks: if he misguesses, he will have to set up one trick in clubs.

Do you see South's extra chance? At trick two, he should lead a club from dummy towards his king. If that loses to the ace, and the

defence switch to hearts, he will have to gauge the position of the queen of spades; but, if the ace of clubs is on his right, he is home — if East rises with the ace, the declarer has three tricks in clubs, three in diamonds, one in hearts and two in spades; if East plays low, declarer wins the king of clubs and switches back to spades.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to 0181-942 9509.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Oxford v Cambridge

The 1996 University match takes place this Saturday at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall.

As for the past six years, the match is supported by Watson, Farley and Williams, the City solicitors, who offer a number of trophies for the best results and best games by players on each side.

The teams this year are led by players of international master standard. Darshan Kumar is on top board for Oxford and Jonathan Parker leads the Cambridge team.

Here is a brilliant win by the latter, involving a rook sacrifice to explode the fortress of the black king.

White: J Parker
Black: K Khan
Hastings Masters, 1995

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 d4	c5
2 c4	exd4
3 Nf3	Bf5
4 f3	Nf6
5 e3	c6
6 Bxc4	exd3
7 0-0	Nbd7
8 Re1	Sb4
9 a3	Bxc3
10 bxc3	0-0
11 h3	Ne4
12 Bf2	g5
13 Bf2	Nf6
14 Qc2	Nf6
15 e4	Bg6
16 Ne5	fxe3
17 Bc1	cs

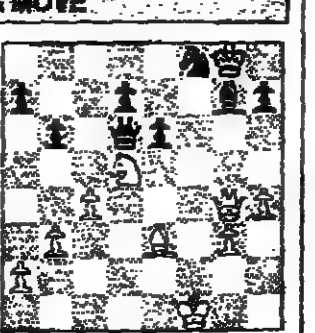
The Oxford v Cambridge match starts at noon and spectators are welcome to attend. Please note, though, that the Club maintains a jacket and tie dress code.

Times chess book

Improve your game with Ray Keene's book. *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01576 327400).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE



White to play. This position is from the game Duckstein — Johanssen, Moscow, 1956. Here, White alerted spotted the chance for a winning tactic. What did he play?

Solution, page 45

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HOBDAV
a. The annual shoemakers' festival
b. Equestrian surgery
c. A bitter drink
KERUING
a. A tropical hardwood
b. A reverberating noise
c. The substance forming rhino horns

MAKARA
a. To move elegantly
b. A self-induced trance
c. A mythical beast
HALLING
a. A grass
b. A walled garden
c. A dance

Answers on page 45

Poor attendances drive course to jumping off point

Nottingham concentrates on Flat

By JUAN MURKITT

AN UNWELCOME slice of history beckons at around 5.30 this afternoon when 24 horses set off around the jumps course at Nottingham for the last time. Poor attendance levels have rendered the sport unprofitable, prompting the executive to transfer its allegiance to Flat racing.

The move has been vociferously condemned within the jumping fraternity, a tightly-knit unit which regards Flat racing with the contempt reserved by Rugby League supporters for the Union code. Indeed, the analogy extends beyond traditional differences, for National Hunt enthusiasts have long considered themselves victims of discrimination in favour of the more glitzy playground of the Flat.

They advance Nottingham's closure as further evidence of an ambivalence towards their sport within racing's hierarchy. Nottingham is owned by Racecourse Holdings Trust

(RHT), a subsidiary of the Jockey Club with a portfolio of 12 racecourses. Several of the Trust's employees are themselves passionate about National Hunt racing. Critics of the closure insist they should have done far more to safeguard the winter code at Nottingham.

Critics also argue that, with

Nag: Glenfian Princess
(3.50 Nottingham)
Next best: Sticksy Money
(5.20 Nottingham)

Cheltenham and Aintree in its ownership, RHT is heavily dependent on the popularity of jump racing for its profits. Given Nottingham's reputation as an ideal nursery venue, they maintain RHT has a moral obligation to support jumping.

David Nicholson, perennially

the leading National Hunt trainer at Nottingham, has collected more than 2,500 signatures of protest. "We are all extremely disappointed because they have said as down the river," he said. "RHT is totally out of order. It profits handsomely from jump racing but when we started our case it just closed its ears. Money has now become the greater God of our sport."

Nottingham racecourse has annually harvested a small profit by offering racegoers action all the year round. However, if trainers have always responded to its excellent racing surface in mid-winter, the local community has stayed away. A February mid-week event will be lucky to attract 500 paying customers. Up to 10,000 will visit the Flat course on a Saturday in summer.

"Our decision has nothing to do with a preference for Flat over National Hunt racing," RHT's managing director, David Hillyard, said. "Not-

tingham has bumped along the bottom for far too long and the board took the view that it is better to do one thing well than two things moderately.

"Unfortunately, National Hunt racing is woefully supported by the public around Nottingham," Hillyard continued. "We felt the arguments were too strongly tilted towards the business case even though we fully understand that our responsibilities go way beyond making a profit."

Nottingham's fate may harbour a broader message for the long-term viability of the smaller jumping circuits. No racecourse will ever draw large attendances when staging moderate mid-week fare, but those hosting Flat racing are less likely to suffer financial losses. National Hunt is more expensive to stage, yet the maximum "figure-incentive grant" is almost half that payable for a Flat meeting.

Hence the plethora of racecourses willing to install all-weather surfaces for use up to

three times a week. Bookmakers are exerting pressure for an increase in such fixtures, which are not vulnerable to the weather.

The negative aspect to all-weather racing is that it takes place in front of empty grandstands. Barely 100 of the colour that so charms critics of National Hunt racing, the all-weather variety is antithetical to the casual observer. It is an eyesore, if a financially profitable one for racecourses and bookmakers.

Jump racing popularity at Nottingham has never emerged from the shadow of the city's two football teams. And competition for the leisure pound has increased with the popularity of the Panthers, the local ice-hockey club.

But National Hunt racing's financial problems run deeper than that. The last jumping circuit to close was Stockton in 1981. In the present climate, it may not be another 15 years before the next casualty is forthcoming.



National Hunt performers take centre stage for the last time at Nottingham today

2.00 Brazil Or Bust	4.00 Wild Illusion
2.30 Must Be Magical	4.30 Let's Get Lost
3.00 Measur	5.00 Cardinal Rule
3.30 Silver Standard	5.30 Shanker

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings 3.50 INJUNCTION.
Carl Evans: 4.00 Wild Illusion.

GOING: GOOD (BAM INSPECTION)		TOTE JACKPOT MEETING		SIS
2.00 CORVEDALE NOVICES HURDLE				
(2m 112yds) (18 runners)				
101	40-01	BRAZIL DR BUILT 13 (OJ)	6-11-14	M MacGowan
102	40-16	THE BURNING (OJ)	6-11-14	P Hogg
103	40-02	BRASSIC LAD 14 (Sawyer)	5-11-13	B Harding 20
104	40-03	RICHMOND 80 (Sawyer)	11-10-13	P MacGowan
105	40-04	WINTER 10 (Sawyer)	6-11-13	P Hogg
106	40-05	ANDREW 40 (Hawthorn)	4-10-12	B Higgins 20
107	40-06	HALLION 40 (Sawyer)	6-10-12	B Gentry
108	40-07	WESS 14 (Sawyer)	11-10-12	B Gentry
109	40-08	MELVILLE 14 (Sawyer)	6-10-12	A MacGowan
110	40-09	ROCKS 14 (Hawthorn)	4-10-12	B Gentry
111	40-10	TO BE WILD 14 (OJ)	6-10-12	B Gentry
112	40-11	P EXCLUSIVE INSURE 17 (Exclusive Commission)	4-10-11	V Stoney
113	40-12	THE 14 (Sawyer)	4-10-11	V Stoney
114	40-13	GO! THREE 10 (Hawthorn)	4-10-11	L Stoney
115	40-14	SPANDER 12 (Sawyer)	4-10-11	J Leeder
116	40-15	THE 14 (Sawyer)	4-10-11	J Leeder
117	40-16	SPANDER 12 (Sawyer)	4-10-11	M Money 20
118	40-17	WOLFE 14 (Sawyer)	4-10-11	P Hogg
BEATERS: 4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11				
TRICK: 10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11 1-4-10-11				

Sir Stanley turns back clock to recall better times at Yeovil

Time, as every sportsman knows, is the real opponent. Whether you are a miller, marathoner, footballer or boxer, you are out to beat the clock, the calendar, the bell, the final whistle.

It is a brave team that takes on time, but last Saturday in Yeovil, at the ground of the legendary non-league giant-killing football club, they rolled out a cast that looked as if it might outwit time itself. For a start, they had Sir Stanley Matthews. He was there not to play — though at 81 he looked quite fit enough to have a go — but to keep time firmly under control by turning on two new stadium clocks.

There too, 50 years to the day since he joined the club as Britain's youngest player-manager at the age of 28, was Alec Stock, one of the most famous figures in Yeovil's history.

It is the centenary season of the West Country club whose identity is forever linked with the romance of the FA Cup. Their tradition of giant-killing, of knocking out league clubs, began in the 1930s and their finest hour came in 1949 when a record crowd of more than 17,000 saw Alec Stock's boys take out mighty Sunderland, then of the first division, in the fourth round. In the next round, a gate of 81,565



saw Yeovil go down 8-0 to Manchester United.

The famous sloping pitch — the incline from one side to the other was as much as eight feet — became part of football's folklore as a steady catalogue of league clubs fell to Yeovil. Yeovil was dubbed the "land of slope and glory".

During the war, American troops stationed on the outskirts of the town offered to flatten out the pitch because they wanted to play baseball on it. But the West Country men were having none of that, knowing that the slope struck terror in the dressing-rooms of visiting teams. Ironically, six years ago when the old Huish ground was sold, the club moved to a fine new stadium built on the fringe of

the town where the army camp once stood.

A lot of time has passed since 1949, but at Yeovil, it seems, time doesn't do a lot of damage. Watching Sir Stanley stepping out at the new Huish on Saturday, you would have thought he had somehow side-stepped time just as magically as he used to sweep past full backs. Jauntily dressed in pullover and baseball cap, he looks whipcord fit and still moves with the lift of an athlete. He regrets he retired "too early" from football at the age of 50, and last year there was an outrageous rumour that he had signed up to make a comeback appearance in a charity match for Clevedon Town against Bristol City.

Watch Sir Stanley waltz down the stadium steps and the rumour suddenly doesn't seem outrageous at all. His eyes shine with enthusiasm as he talks football with young would-be players. "Always keep yourself fit," he urges. "Do anything to give yourself the edge. Plenty of running. It's a beautiful game. These days you'll make a lot of money. You'll make a lot more being a footballer than you will being a journalist."

Up in the executive lounge, the elegant Stock moves a little more stiffly than the uniformed army



Sir Stanley Matthews leads a delegation of dignitaries as he switches on the two new clocks that have been installed at Yeovil Town's Huish Park stadium. Photograph: Nigel Andrews

captain who first turned up at the club half a century ago, but his memories and charm are untouched by time. He gets to his feet to give his autograph. Around the walls hang mementoes of the club's (and Stock's) finest moments — framed from pages of vanished newspapers, the *Daily Sketch*, the *Sunday Graphic*, the *Sunday Pictorial*. Here is a corner of Yeovil that is forever 1949.

Stock himself has an enthusiasm for football that the years of

his long career have not dimmed. His life as a manager took him from Yeovil to Orient, Arsenal, Roma, Luton, Fulham, Queens Park Rangers and Bournemouth. Back at the club where it all started, he says he is here just "to get out and watch the game".

Out on the pitch, there is yet another time-defying act to be seen. Graham Roberts — sometime of Tottenham Hotspur, Rangers, Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion and England — is the latest

player-manager at Yeovil. His hair is grey, his legs battered, his presence awesome. His date of birth sticks out in the match programme like a misprint. He is giving a decade or so to most players on the pitch, but to watch him play is to have an object lesson in how to get the better of time. He never runs when he can walk, but he reads every move like a master. Yeovil's opponents in the match are Bromley. Time has not got at them yet. They prance on to the

pitch with all the loose-legged enthusiasm of youth. The ground is heavy and sodden with rain. "Water never stayed on the pitch like that at Huish," growls a spectator, "rain used to run off that slope like a river."

Seven goals keep the crowd of almost 2,000 mesmerised and time goes into fast-forward. With four minutes to go, it's Yeovil 4 Bromley 3. The handsome new stadium clocks, gifts of local firms, GKN Westland and Loral Asia, mark the unforgiving minute with an accuracy that is a novelty for the Yeovil crowd.

Back in The Game of 1949, the crowd split on to the pitch two minutes before for a free kick as a signal for the end of the game. Play was held up while they were marshalled back to the stands. But now time is under control and on display and the crowd whistles anxiously for the end. For Bromley, time runs out and Yeovil win.

But it's Stock who has the last word on time. "There's only one good thing about growing old," he says. "Everyone forgets that you used to lose sometimes. After a few years they only remember the games you won."

JOHN BRYANT

Europe to put Super League into new orbit

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS RUGBY league in Australia descends deeper into chaos with each day, the game in this country will continue its forward momentum today as Sky Television launches its coverage of the new £37 million European Super League competition.

While clubs get to grips with the changes caused by the switch to a season running from March to September, they need urgent questions answered. Can lucrative end-of-season play-offs with leading Australian sides now take place? If not, what will occupy their place? Importantly, will the British game enter the courtroom battle in Sydney?

The most up-to-date answer to the last question is "probably". The Rugby Football League (RFL) is prepared for legal action in order to save the play-offs and Great Britain's Australasian tour in October, but any assurances Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, can deliver on these matters at the launch in London today would need to be set against the rapidly worsening situation in Australia.

Unlike the breakaway Australian Super League, officially banned from starting tomorrow, and the establishment Australian Rugby League (ARL), which was yesterday forced to postpone its simultaneous kick-off for at least a fortnight, the European Super League will start, on March 29, in Paris, where the home side will meet Sheffield Eagles.

The ARL had to delay the beginning of its season as the eight Super League clubs refused to join those that have remained loyal to the ARL in its 20-team competition. Instead, it has organised a series of trials and will renew its

attempt to get the rebels back on board for a rescheduled start on March 15.

Ken Arthurson, the ARL chairman, said the season could be delayed further by continuing court action, as the ARL seeks more strictures to outlaw the Super League, which will next week lodge appeals against court judgments halting its inauguration. "The rebels seem unconcerned at the damage done," Arthurson said. "They don't seem concerned at the repairs the ARL is trying to implement."

Arthurson, reluctantly, is prepared to start the ARL competition with as few as 14 teams, which would require two of the defecting clubs to return. He and John Quayle, the ARL chief executive, are in New Zealand today to try to force the Auckland Warriors, who have several pro-ARL directors, to leave the Super League.

Yesterday, however, for the second successive day, all eight rebels boycotted an emergency meeting called by the ARL. In spite of an interim injunction served on Super League in the Federal Court in Sydney on Tuesday, members of the breakaway league are reportedly planning an unofficial series of matches this weekend.

The ARL's lawyers insisted that any games under the Super League banner would be in contempt of court but by having players organise games, Super League clubs think they can get around the ruling. "The players' representatives have said: 'No. We are not going back to the ARL,'" Paul Morgan, the chairman of Brisbane Broncos, said. "This is a push by the players. It is the directors who can be dealt with legally by the ARL."



Rossweiss has opted out of the European indoor championships to concentrate on training for the Olympic Games

Big names ignore indoor challenge

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THERE are less than five months before the Olympic Games track programme begins and it showed yesterday when Great Britain announced its team for the European indoor championships in Stockholm starting a week tomorrow. Nobody is taking any chances.

It has long been known that Britain's famous five — Edwards, Christie, Jackson, Gunnell and Holmes — would not be going; likewise Black, Richardson, Denmark, Smith, Murray and McColgan. Yet there were still a few names left to keep the flag flying.

Yesterday, though, three more left the parade. John Regis, Tony Jarrett and Melanie Neef have ended their indoor season prematurely, with Georgia on their minds. Regis, the 1989 world indoor 200 metres champion, has been unsettled by a recurrence of last winter's bad habit,

repeated disqualification for running out of lane, while Jarrett and Neef have suffered injuries.

"We decided that going to Stockholm would be a mistake," Mike McFarlane, coach to Regis and Jarrett, said. "It would be the second half of March before we were training for the Olympics. There is not much time between now and when we need to be racing in May."

For Michael Rossweiss, three times a European medal-winner at 60 metres, Stockholm has been spurned as he attempts to get his summer right. Rossweiss has failed repeatedly to transfer his indoor form to the 100 metres. Olympic year is the time to change. "I want to do it the other way round this time," Rossweiss said. In the past, he has sacrificed training for racing but his relatively poor indoor form this winter is explained by his heavier training programme.

The past three European indoor men's

60 metres champions have been British, so it will be up to Jason Gardener and Jason John to try to keep the sequence moving. Duane Ladefog, in the 400 metres, looks Britain's safest bet for gold. Ladefog and Dalton Grant, named for the high jump, were winners at the last European indoor championships. Ashia Hansen, in the triple jump, is Britain's only other potential winner.

With Edwards et al missing, the team is less a who's who of British athletics than a who will be or who was: Gardener and Guy Bullock are 20, Mark Hylton and Marlon Devonish 19. In contrast, Judy Oakes is on course for a record 75th appearance for Great Britain.

BRITAIN TEAM: 60 metres: J. Gardener, J. John, K. Williams, 200 metres: D. Turner, A. Gordon, M. Devonish, 400 metres: D. Ladefog, G. Bullock, M. Hylton, 800 metres: J. Lyson, 1,500 metres: A. Wharmby, 1 mile: H. Stephenson, A. Cooper, High jump: D. Grant, Triple jump: J. Hansen, Pole vault: N. Burdfield, Shot: S. Pilling, 100 metres: J. Oakes, 200 metres: J. Regis, 400 metres: J. Oakes, 800 metres: J. Oakes, 1,500 metres: J. Oakes, 1 mile: J. Oakes, 2 miles: J. Oakes, 3 miles: J. Oakes, 4 miles: J. Oakes, 5 miles: J. Oakes, 6 miles: J. Oakes, 7 miles: J. Oakes, 8 miles: J. Oakes, 9 miles: J. Oakes, 10 miles: J. Oakes, 11 miles: J. Oakes, 12 miles: J. Oakes, 13 miles: J. Oakes, 14 miles: J. Oakes, 15 miles: J. Oakes, 16 miles: J. Oakes, 17 miles: J. Oakes, 18 miles: J. Oakes, 19 miles: J. Oakes, 20 miles: J. Oakes, 21 miles: J. Oakes, 22 miles: J. Oakes, 23 miles: J. Oakes, 24 miles: J. Oakes, 25 miles: J. Oakes, 26 miles: J. Oakes, 27 miles: J. Oakes, 28 miles: J. Oakes, 29 miles: J. 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Australia throw down thrilling challenge

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON
IN PUNE

THE Australians were happy men yesterday, buoyed by their outstanding performance in Bombay the previous night when they had given India, and everybody else, something to think about. It will take a very good side to prevent them winning the cricket World Cup, so settled are they, and so strong in all areas.

It seems almost unnatural that as fine a player as Michael Slater cannot make the team. What would England give for a batsman of his class? About £1 million. Dean Jones and Tom Moody, other batsmen England could do with, are not even here, and Craig McDermott is on the

way home with a calf strain. Yet Australia march on regardless.

The choice of Jason Gillespie as McDermott's replacement reveals an awful lot about the Australian way. Whereas England habitually revert to players they are familiar with, Australia always back younger men who have shown promise. Steve Waugh said yesterday he had never even met Gillespie.

The newcomer is not expected to play much of a part in the competition. Damien Fleming, who came into the team on Tuesday night, underlined their depth of talent by taking five Indian wickets, including three important ones at the top of the order. Mark Taylor used seven bowlers in Bombay and got good

value from each. There is an enviable purpose about their cricket. Even when Tendulkar was collaring the bowling, they never lost their "shape" in the field, although if he had survived another five overs it would have been interesting.

These are self-sufficient cricketers who do not have to have everything cut up into bite-sized chunks for them to digest. They are picked for their skills and allowed to develop them. Again, England could learn a lot by absorbing this.

The beauty of having a settled, confident side is that a young all-rounder such as Shane Lee can come in and not feel out of place despite contributing next to nothing with the bat and bowling three expensive

overs. Lee will probably make way for Paul Reiffel when the bowler recovers from a pulled hamstring.

Steve Waugh, who has played nearly 200 one-day internationals, considers Tuesday's game as good as any. What gave the match its distinction was that it was proper cricket, with a series of gripping encounters between players of high talent. When Tendulkar and Waugh joined battle, there was almost an audible intake of breath, and the participants did not disappoint.

Waugh was superb. After Tendulkar flat-batted his first ball to the boundary, to reach 50, and took ten runs off the over, the leg spinner bowled nine more overs for 18 runs: an outstanding effort. However upset

he was by the prospect of going to Sri Lanka, he is evidently enjoying his cricket here, and exchanged hearty mutual congratulations with Tendulkar after the match.

Taylor stationed himself at slip when Waugh returned in the final stages of the Indian innings, and it worked a treat. Mongolia kicking a ball to the Australian captain. It was imaginative leadership, typical of a man who shuffled his pack of bowlers splendidly and gave them excellent fields. The standard of fielding, it should not go without saying, was superb.

There is time for Australia to slip up, of course, but they have established the benchmark for this tournament and everyone else has noticed.

Edgbaston next stop for a young Test player of unlimited potential

Fast bowler following in father's footsteps



Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, meets a young South African he believes is bound for greatness

There is something about Shaun Pollock that is evocative of those wholesome television series about American high schools. Perhaps it is the bright, honest features, the red hair cut severely, though never shaven, or the unambiguous clean living. It is almost as if he is too good to be true.

England certainly thought as much when he was introduced to them at Centurion, on the opening day of their long international winter. Pollock, making his Test debut for South Africa at 22, felt he was conspicuously being targeted as the new kid on the block — and, as the chairman of selectors' son, a privileged kid at

county champions, Warwickshire, in succession to Brian Lara and Allan Donald.

Of course, he has apprehensions, not least that something must go wrong for him soon. And yet if you seek the epitome of the self-possessed young sportsman, one highly unlikely to join the ranks of the spoilt, surly and arrogant, then Pollock is your man.

He recalled the importance of that day when Atherton's blue helmet was given a rare battering and when his wide eyes and dancing feet told of his sudden regard for a new opponent. "In hindsight, it was a good thing that I hit him," Pollock said. "Not to hurt but to prove a point. I had heard they were going to target me as the youngster so it was important I earned some respect pretty quick."

What Pollock had proved was that he was not just a pretty face, nor a beneficiary of nepotism, but a bowler of pedigree. He may not look or sound nasty but, plainly, he could be hostile. Atherton believes he never bowled as fast in the series after that first day, but it did not matter. The point had been made that he was not to be underestimated, particularly not in Cape Town, where his match figures in the decisive final Test were seven for 53.

Any doubt that he could translate his talent to limited-overs cricket was dispelled four days later, back at Newlands. Pollock scored 66 not out and took four for 34, pitching England towards the first of their six one-day defeats and ensuring his role in this World Cup. "That was the best week of my life," he beams. But quickly, true to character, he added the caveat:



A moment for reflection for Pollock, whose achievements this winter have far outstripped his ambition

"I don't get too carried away. At the start of our season my aim was just to get a game in the South African side, so I do feel up in the clouds. But I'm constantly aware that old mother cricket will come back to get me. My family has instilled that in me and it is a good safety valve."

His family, of course, knows about such things. His father, Peter, was South Africa's opening bowler in 28 Tests during the 1960s and his uncle, Graeme, was one of the finest batsmen in the world. Both would have been part of the South Africa side that night, politics apart, have dominated world cricket through the 1970s, so coping with disappointment comes naturally to them.

"I never saw my dad play," Pollock said. "He gave up the year I was born so I've just seen old videos of him, with that funny bowling action." He giggled irreverently. "But I used to go and see Graeme. Now, there was something to watch. Neither of them pushed me but from the age of five or six there was never a time when I wanted to do anything but play cricket."

His action, smooth and physically undemanding, is natural, though the input of his father and Malcolm Marshall, his coach at Natal for four years, has oiled the wheels.

Pollock wants to be thought of as an all-rounder, but does not claim to be one just yet. Sensibly, he is seeking broad

experience, which is why he will play a season with Warwickshire, having first turned down Hampshire and Surrey. "I've got a bit to follow there," he said, puffing out his cheeks, "and the schedule of a county season is a bit of an unknown factor. But I'll have Allan (Donald) as my coach and that will be very important."

In the meantime, there is unfinished business in the sub-continent. For this non-drinking, non-smoking paragon to whom sport comes second only to his Christian religion.

"It has been an amazing year for South African sport," he said. "I just hope it doesn't end before this World Cup does."

Top four in each group qualify for quarter-finals. Two points for a win, one for a tie and no result.

GROUP A	P	W	T	L	N	Pts
Sri Lanka	3	2	0	0	0	6
West Indies	3	2	0	0	0	6
Australia	3	2	0	0	0	6
India	3	1	0	2	0	2
Kenya	3	0	0	3	0	0

RESULTS: West Indies beat Zimbabwe by 6 wickets. Hyderabad, Sri Lanka beat Australia, Colombo, India beat Sri Lanka by 102 runs. Rawalpindi, Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 6 wickets. Colombo, India beat West Indies by 6 wickets. Gwalior, Sri Lanka beat Kenya by 57 runs. Rawalpindi, Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 102 runs. Rawalpindi, Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 102 runs.

FEATURES: Today, Kenya v West Indies, Pune. Tomorrow, Australia v Zimbabwe, Nagpur. Mar 2: India v Sri Lanka, Delhi. Mar 4: West Indies v Australia, Jaipur. Mar 6: India v Zimbabwe, Kanpur. Mar 8: Sri Lanka v Kenya, Ranchi.

GROUP B

	P	W	T	L	N	Pts
South Africa	3	3	0	0	0	9
New Zealand	3	2	0	0	0	6
Pakistan	3	2	0	0	0	6
Holland	3	0	0	3	0	0
UAE	3	0	0	3	0	0

RESULTS: New Zealand beat England by 11 runs. Ahmedabad, South Africa beat Pakistan by 102 runs. Rawalpindi, Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 102 runs. Rawalpindi, Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 102 runs.

FEATURES: Today, Pakistan v South Africa, Karachi. Tomorrow, Holland v UAE, Lahore. Mar 2: Pakistan v England, Karachi. Mar 4: Holland v South Africa, Rawalpindi. Mar 6: Pakistan v New Zealand, Lahore.

QUARTER-FINALS: Mar 9: Winner group A v 4th group B, Faisalabad. Mar 10: 2nd group A v runner-up group B, Bangalore. Mar 11: Winner group B v 4th group A, Karachi. Mar 12: 3rd group B v runner-up group A, Madras.

SEMI-FINALS: Mar 13: Faisalabad winner v Bangalore winner, Calcutta. Mar 14: Karachi winner v Madras winner, Chandigarh.

FINAL: Mar 17: Lahore

Why off spinners are not getting the breaks

IS IT coincidence that the three best spin bowlers at the World Cup — Shane Warne, Mushtaq Ahmed and Anil Kumble — are all leg spinners? John Emburey, who played 63 Test matches for England as an off spinner and, according to many on the grapevine, will be the next England manager, thinks not.

"I expect Warne, Mushtaq Ahmed and Kumble to bowl well and take wickets but finger spinners — especially off spinners — will go for runs," Emburey said yesterday. "The off spinner is severely restricted by the rule limiting him to five fields on the on-side. The slow left-arm and leg spinner can have six on the off-side, which gives them an unfair advantage. The rule is going to force the off spinner out of the game."

Off spinners have certainly enjoyed meagre rewards at

the World Cup, with Neil Smith, of England, and New Zealand's Shane Thomson their leading wicket-takers with four each. "The most promising off spinner I have seen recently," Emburey added, "is Saqlain Mushtaq, the young Pakistani, whom I watched briefly on television bowling in a Test match in Australia. He looks good."

Prize whine

Even after an impressive win over their hosts on Tuesday, the Australians cannot stop expressing their misgivings. This time it is over the prize-money, which admittedly is pitifully small. Bob Simpson, the Australia coach, could hold himself back no longer and yesterday demanded in the *Business Standard* newspaper that the players receive a percentage of the competition's profits.

Simon Wilde's WORLD CUP EXTRAS

"The prize-money should definitely be higher," Simpson said. "It's been hovering at the current levels for some time. The winners will get £30,000. That's not much, is it? Even middle-level golf or tennis tournaments offer a bigger purse to the winners and those are competitions in an individual sport. From the profit figures one hears, the players should be getting more money."

In which case, why did Australia agree — along with the other Test-playing countries — to the levels of prize-

money put before them at the International Cricket Council's annual meeting last July? For once, it seems, Pilscom, the organising committee, comes up smelling of roses.

Final option

The World Cup final in Lahore may or may not be a day-night match. Anil Abbas, the chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board, has said that, if the Government cannot guarantee an uninterrupted electricity supply to the Gaddafi Stadium, the final will be switched to a day match. "We cannot risk a final where the lights go off," he said.

Kenya's honour

Kenya are very excited about their match in Pune today. "West Indies have always been our favourite cricketers," Maurice Odumbe, the Kenya

captain, said yesterday. "It's an honour to play with them. We try to play like them, aggressive and entertaining at the same time. The boys will learn a lot." Odumbe also hopes to get Brian Lara's autograph. The last time he asked in Swansea several years ago, Lara refused.

Under attack

The only job worse than captaining England is captaining West Indies. Richie Richardson has now lost the support of Viv Richards, his one-time mentor. "Richie Richardson seems to have allowed things to deteriorate, and people have started taking advantage," Richards said in the *Times of India*. Brian Lara, he added, has "everything in the making to be a good captain... he has got a wonderful knowledge of the game."

The grin and the sorrow

Grinning from Ear to Ear. Radio 4, 7.30pm.

Nana Anko-Awuaye's charting of black actors' progress in Hollywood in the inter-war years could easily have been fuelled by anger. For the most part, however, their story is told (by Orlan Peters) with sorrow born of regret. Black actors were in an ethnically hostile world. Few escaped stereotyping. They were peripheral characters who rolled their eyes in fright; lazy-boned manservants; maids who did not know which end of the telephone to speak into; contented slaves. They were meant to be laughed at, not empathised with. A few smashed the Uncle Tom mould and made film history. This long overdue documentary salutes their achievements.

Stranger than Fiction. Radio 4, 8.45pm.

Last year's experiment of inviting writers to comment on the Gospel accounts of the Passion is being repeated. Six writers, believers and sceptics, contribute to this second series, starting tonight with Allan Massie. His theme is fascinatingly specific: is the Gospel of St John or someone else's? Whoever it was, Massie argues, he was a masterly artist, for he diverts our attention away from Judas and turns the spotlight on Christ alone. Only a true artist, he says, could have depicted a Christ as real as Shakespeare's Hamlet or Tolstoy's Pierre Bezukov. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

PM Stereo 4.00 Che Warran 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Atkinson 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 1.15 The Hit 2.00 Nick Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 4.30-4.45 Newsbeat 5.15 The Hit 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Hi Parade 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 11.00-11.15pm The Hit 12.15 The Hit

RADIO 2

PM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 11.15 Praise for Thought 7.30 Widespread 8.15 Praise for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 10.10 Pick of the Hits 11.30-11.45pm The Hit 12.15 The Hit 1.30-1.45pm The Hit 2.00-2.15pm The Hit 3.30-3.45pm The Hit 4.00-4.15pm The Hit 4.30-4.45pm The Hit 5.00-5.15pm The Hit 5.30-5.45pm The Hit 6.00-6.15pm The Hit 6.30-6.45pm The Hit 7.00-7.15pm The Hit 7.30-7.45pm The Hit 8.00-8.15pm The Hit 8.30-8.45pm The Hit 9.00-9.15pm The Hit 9.30-9.45pm The Hit 10.00-10.15pm The Hit 10.30-10.45pm The Hit 11.00-11.15pm The Hit 11.30-11.45pm The Hit 12.00-12.15pm The Hit 12.30-12.45pm The Hit 1.00-1.15pm The Hit 1.30-1.45pm The Hit 2.00-2.15pm The Hit 2.30-2.45pm The Hit 3.00-3.15pm The Hit 3.30-3.45pm The Hit 4.00-4.15pm The Hit 4.30-4.45pm The Hit 5.00-5.15pm The Hit 5.30-5.45pm The Hit 6.00-6.15pm The Hit 6.30-6.45pm The Hit 7.00-7.15pm The Hit 7.30-7.45pm The Hit 8.00-8.15pm The Hit 8.30-8.45pm The Hit 9.00-9.15pm The Hit 9.30-9.45pm The Hit 10.00-10.15pm The Hit 10.30-10.45pm 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On cliché safari with Crocodile Chalmers

Hang on — I'll be with you in a minute. Just wrestling with one of those fiendish teasers that travel programmes have taken to coming up with. What, that nice Judith Chalmers wants to know, is the capital of Poland?

Is it a Warsaw, which happens to be where John Carter spent his allotted seven minutes of *Wish You Were Here* (ITV) last night or b) Krakow, where he didn't go at all? Blowed if I know, but we've got until Tuesday to find out. There is a £10,000 holiday of a lifetime at stake, so if somebody out there knows the answer I really would be extremely grateful.

Good, glad we have got that sorted out. It means we can get on with our central theme. Last night, was definitely, indisputably, categorically Africa night. Chalmers was in The Gambia, Robert Elms was in Ethiopia for Channel 4, as was — by one of those spooky

television coincidences — a film unit for the BBC2 series *Under the Sun*. I now know quite a lot about Ethiopia. Go on, ask me what the capital is.

I already knew a little bit about The Gambia, partly through having been there (long, long ago in the days when its capital, Banjul, was still called Bathurst) and partly through having watched far too many documentaries about what British women of a certain age get up to with local males of a much younger age. A Chalmers-eye view of the "beach boy phenomenon" promised to be interesting.

In particular, I was hoping for one of her briskly delivered fact sheets — "a week's bed and board with a three star, 25-year-old stars from £399 in low season, drinks, meals and impulsive presents excluded". But frisky fact sheet came there none. She may have been tempted by the well-muscled

charms of the chaps playing beach Frisbee behind her — "it is easy just to flop out in the hotel grounds..." but she had her reputation as a senior travel writer to think of.

"Another thing to do," she continued brightly, "is go out and explore Africa." Which, with just a hint of a wistful backward glance, she did. Coming face to face with the Third World, she calls it.

She went to the local market ("primitive and colourful"), she went on the £20 all-in Roots excursion to the ancestral home of Alex Haley and gamely she shook hands/claws with an improbably docile crocodile. As those famously tanned features posed for pictures with the uncorroded croc, a ghastly thought presented itself. Which one would make the better handbag?

But at least Chalmers made The Gambia sound as if it might be

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

fun. Elms, by contrast, kicked *Travelogue* (Channel 4) off with the sort of "I had a farm in Aafrica" melodrama that, but for my professional duties, would have had me scrabbling for the off-button.

"Desolation, desperation, despair," he droned drearily, "and following a biblical famine... — no, don't tell me, let me guess, yep... — death." He went on. "The words Ethiopia now evokes..."

All begin with D? Are likely to send you screaming to South Africa? ...are all potentially tragic, yet Ethiopia was once the word for all Africa, the most glorified and learned land in an endless continent. "Well, at least the alliteration had dried up."

Now, Elms often makes a decent travel guide. On Spain and things Spanish he is excellent and he is as good as the next cheeky chappie at doing those what's-a-nice-job-like-me-doing-in-a-place-like-this pieces straight to camera. But get him home, lock him in a darkened room with pen and paper and ask him to write what he did on his holidays and he produces the most terrible, meaningless list.

No sooner had he left Addis Ababa (a capital, I suppose, always likely to encourage alliteration than he was at it again. "I loved Harar," which inevitably was also home to the Hyena Men) "a shabby, scurrilous, grimy and

groovy little city." That delivered, he was off in search of "myths and mysteries" which was definitely pushing his luck.

Whatever had unhinged Elms seemed to have happened in Lalibela, the increasingly well known site of 12 churches apparently hewn out of rock. From the moment he got there, still clutching the umbrella which he had rightly identified as Ethiopia's must-have for the season, he was "rocked back, plagued by questions of how and why".

Nowhere else he had been in the world, he told us, had prompted "the conflict and tumult of emotion" he was feeling here. "I have felt a wonderment, and there is no other word than wonderment, that came from deep within." At that moment I too felt something coming from deep within and it wasn't wonderment. I switched over just in time.

I found myself still in Ethiopia and still watching a man with an umbrella, en route to a spiritual experience. This was *The Pilgrim's Gift*, the last, in the enjoyable *Under the Sun* (BBC2) series.

Haji Ahmed, I was relieved to discover, was not going to Lalibela but was making his annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Sheikh Hussein, the man who had introduced Islam to the region some 700 hundred years ago and whose miracles still come highly regarded.

Haji and his middle wife, Hajo (thank goodness Elms wasn't around), provided good company on their journey through the spectacularly beautiful highlands. When this sprightly 70-year-old wasn't showing the cat with his moustache, he was testing his footsore wife for lagging behind. "What can I do?" she struggled philosophically. "He has the horse." Not to mention the umbrella.

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JVC concerned at escalating costs

Sponsor may pull plug on Arsenal deal

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON AND PETER BALL

ARSENAL are in danger of losing their sponsorship deal with JVC, the electronics company. It is the longest-running such agreement in football, having lasted 13 years, but it is up for renewal at the end of this season. The Japanese company is reconsidering its position because of escalating costs.

However, JVC UK admitted yesterday that the adverse publicity attracted by the club over the past year could prove a factor in its final decision. Paul Merson, the midfielder player, had to undergo rehabilitation for drink, drugs and gambling problems and George Graham was sacked as Arsenal manager 12 months ago after being found guilty by the Football Association of transfer irregularities. "Negotiations are still continuing," Mike Whyman, the JVC publicity manager, said yesterday. "It is not true to say that we have made any decision yet. If we were to discontinue our relationship with Arsenal, then obviously matters have to be resolved quickly. That would give them time to talk to other people."

"Cost is the main criterion here. Marketing budgets do go up but not as fast as the media costs for us. Of course, there are other considerations, the Merson and Graham matters among them, but they are not major issues."

The Arsenal sponsorship is JVC's biggest in Britain and has rolled over in a series of

contracts — the initial one for a year, the subsequent four in three-year periods. The firm's parent company, based in Tokyo, is one of the leading financial backers of the European championship finals to be staged in England during the summer.

"Each time you renegotiate, the customer is going to ask for more money," Whyman said. "You have to take into account the positives and the negatives and, overall, we have been very pleased with

Tranmere Rovers yesterday jumped to the head of the queue of clubs hoping to sign Ian Rush when the Liverpool striker leaves Anfield at the end of the season. Tranmere, of the Eddlestone Insurance League first division, is only five miles from Rush's home on The Wirral.

the partnership." Arsenal have received about £11 million from the company over the 13 years.

Since the formation of the FA Premier League in 1992, sponsors have been attracted in increasing numbers. The present television deal with BSkyB, BBC and overseas rights is worth £305 million over a five-year period. This season, each club will receive £878,725 from television fees.

Carlisle, the drinks firm, is investing £3 million per season over four years and there

are numerous subsidiary packages. Shirt sponsors pay between £500,000 to £1 million per season, in which area the JVC agreement is believed to fall, but it is only a fraction of what a Premiership club can expect to generate in commercial and marketing income. Arsenal have a £24 million annual turnover.

A Premier League spokesman said: "We do not comment on individual clubs' sponsorship deals. In general, all clubs now recognise the importance of developing their commercial activities and statistics show that, with increased opportunities, commercial income as a percentage of total turnover is rising."

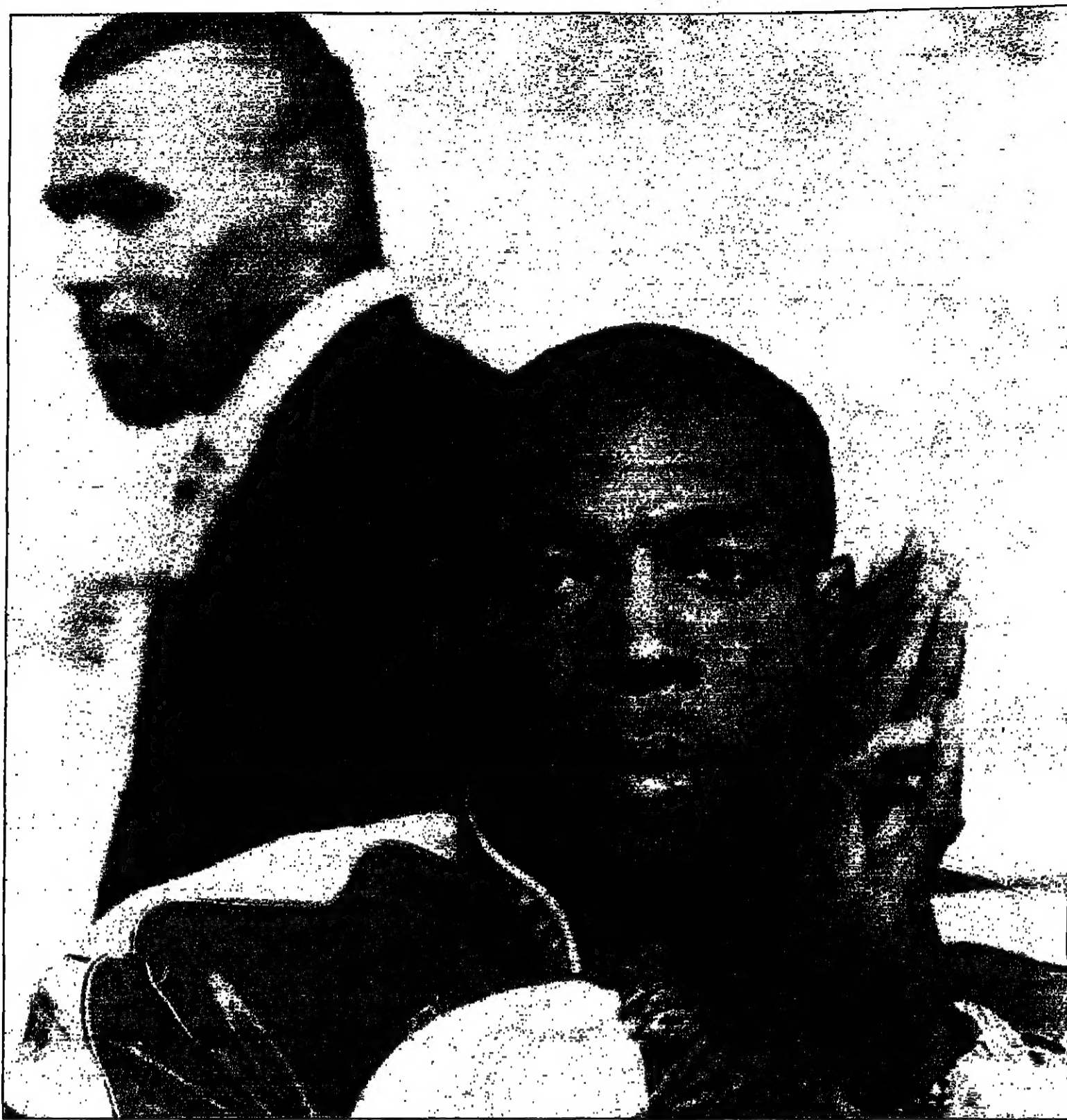
The Arsenal managing director, Ken Friar, and marketing manager, Philip Carling, were in meetings yesterday and unavailable for comment, but club officials are expected to meet again with their sponsor's representatives before the JVC UK directors travel to Japan for the company's annual budget meeting. They are not due to return until a week on Tuesday. "It would be better if we could get it sorted out before they go," Whyman said.

Middlesbrough's involvement with South America increased yesterday when Branco, the Brazil full back, arrived on Teesside to join Juninho in the FA Carling Premiership. Branco will train today and hopes to make his debut for his new club against Everton on Saturday.

While a South American arrives, a South African departs. Mark Fish's move to Manchester United fell through, and the central defender has instead decided to join Lazio.

The Denmark international, Erik Bo Andersen, is expected to undergo a medical examination in Glasgow today before signing for Rangers. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, was in Denmark yesterday and is reported to have finalised a £1.2 million deal for the Aalborg striker.

Tyson ignores fighting talk from Bruno



Frank Bruno, ignoring the lingering menace of Mike Tyson, yesterday served notice that he would not be a lamb to the slaughter when he defends his World Boxing Council heavyweight title next month. Angered by the actions of Tyson's entourage during their first pre-fight news conference together, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Bruno questioned whether Tyson learnt anything while serving a 3½-year prison sentence for rape.

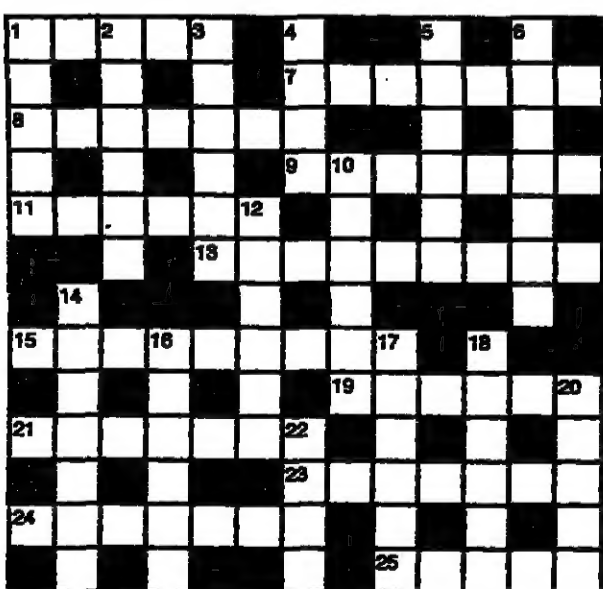
thought prison was supposed to wise you up and make you a better man," Bruno said. "He's getting worse, to be honest, both in the ring and out of the ring." He refrained from getting involved in a shouting match with the entourage, but later criticised Tyson for the actions of his supporters. "The way these people go on is not good for boxing," Bruno said. "I'm here to bring a little class to the sport." He brought his title belt with him,

taking it out of a bag and placing it in front of him. With a £4 million purse awaiting him, he was quick to draw attention to the challenger's £20 million pay cheque. "I'm not a greedy man, but Tyson is getting 16 to 20 times more than I'm getting," Bruno said. "Would you be happy if you were the champion and were being treated like the challenger?" Bruno was the only one doing much talking, with Tyson making little or no effort to answer even the most

basic questions before bringing the news conference to an abrupt close. "I'm just confident in what I'm capable of doing," was a typically brusque response from the former champion. The only time he came close to revealing any of his thoughts about the fight was when he predicted he would beat Bruno. "It's interesting Mr Bruno is talking very brave and courageous," he said. "We'll see."

Photograph: Lennox McLendon

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 717 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS

- 1 Companion of Gog (5)
- 7 From the side (7)
- 8 Rebellious (7)
- 9 OT book — Slope (The Warden) (7)
- 11 Idler: (US) soft shoe (6)
- 12 Uncomposure of manner (4-5)
- 15 The Maid of Orleans (4,2,3)
- 19 List of charges (6)
- 21 Dog of unknown parentage (7)
- 23 Unpaid player (7)
- 24 Betrayal: fully-attended event (4-3)
- 25 Simple song: sailor's bag (5)

DOWN

- 1 Inscribed metal as award (5)
- 2 Coarse laugh (6)
- 3 French wine: Robert —, poet (6)
- 4 High male voice (4)
- 5 "I married him" (Jane Eyre) (6)
- 6 German Land, capital Munich (7)
- 10 Humphrey —, film actor (6)
- 12 Fund-raising lottery (6)
- 14 Rank above major (7)
- 16 Trifling fault, complaint (6)
- 17 Baseless rumour (6)
- 18 Unspeaking (6)
- 20 Sudden excursion (5)
- 22 Behind time (4)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 716

ACROSS: 1 Root 3 Psalmist 8 Patience 10 Allow 11 Roman candle 13 Fester 15 Beddit 17 Bourgeoisie 20 Drift 21 Adding 22 Excerate 23 Preb
DOWN: 1 Ruffraff 2 Odium 4 See-saw 5 Lo and behold 6 Illness 7 Town 9 Non sequitur 12 Strength 14 Sublime 16 Aghast 18 Sligo 19 Edge

City plan great rock'n'roll signing

BY DAVID MADDOCK

OASIS, the rock band at No 1 in the charts with their single *Don't Look Back in Anger*, are negotiating to become sponsors of Manchester City Football Club. If a deal is struck, then the most famous name in British popular music at present will be emblazoned across the front of the team's sky blue shirt.

Francis Lee, the chairman of Manchester City, confirmed yesterday that he held a meeting with Noel Gallagher, the band's songwriter and guitarist, last week. The football club is sponsored now by Brother, the electronics firm, but the £650,000-a-year contract is close to expiring.

Lee is conducting negotiations to secure a new deal and

although talks are continuing with Brother about a renewal of their contract, he revealed that he has also talked with Gallagher, whom he met last week. It is understood they discussed a package that will involve the band in a joint sponsorship deal with another company that will see Oasis named as sponsors on the shirts.

"I met Noel Gallagher and we talked about sponsorship," Lee said. "We are talking with Brother, but it is no secret that there are other parties interested and we are talking to them as well. Noel seems interested in becoming involved and we welcome that."

The band members are diehard supporters of Manchester City. Gallagher and his brother, Liam, the

group's lead singer, come from Burnage, a suburb of Manchester close to Moss Side, where the Maine Road stadium is situated. They recently opened City's new £6 million training complex and were delighted to find that an executive dining area was named The Oasis Suite.

Oasis have also announced two concerts at the club's Maine Road ground in April, with the 40,000 capacity selling out within hours of going on sale. They have been introduced on the pitch at Maine Road and regularly attend the club's home matches.

A spokesman for the band's record company, Creation Records, confirmed last night that their interest in sponsorship was born from their lifelong support of the

Manchester team. "They are big, big fans and it would be a big thrill to see their names on the shirts," he said.

It would also offer a strong financial incentive to Manchester City. With clever marketing, City football strips could be sold all around the world. Oasis are placed at No 3 in the American music charts and look likely to become the next English name to crack that market.

Manchester City are still heavily involved in negotiations with Brother, and were keen to stress last night that a deal could be struck with the electronics firm. If however, talks are not fruitful, then Oasis would follow the lead of Elton John, the pop singer who became chairman of Watford Football Club.

Skating world bids farewell to Grinkov

THE ice skating world gathered in Hartford, Connecticut, on Tuesday night to pay tribute to Sergei Grinkov, who died in November. Skaters from many parts of the globe performed in remembrance of Grinkov, who suffered a fatal heart attack while practising with his wife and partner, Ekaterina Gordeeva.

Many of the participants expressed their sadness at the end of a perfect partnership on and off the ice but Gordeeva, making her first appearance in public since her husband's death, spoke also of happiness. "I'm so happy this evening is happening," Gordeeva said after watching the all-star cast perform. "And I am so sad it is all over. I want to start it over again."

Gordeeva's own performance was the highlight of the night. "I want you to know I skated today not alone — I skated with Sergei," she said. "That is why I skated so good." Wearing a white and blue-grey dress, she began her programme, to Mahler's *Fifth Symphony*, with her hand out, as if a partner were holding it. Suddenly, she stopped, covering her face. Then, hands out, as if

searching for her lost husband, she raced around the ice.

Many skaters paid their tributes with laughter. Scott Hamilton surprised the audience with his bell-bottoms, vest with peace symbols and a long, brown mane as he danced and pranced to songs from



Grinkov: tributes

Hair. With a routine set to a medley of Elvis Presley songs, Alexander Fadeev twirled around a white cowboy hat while Katarina Witt was bewitching with her Melissa Etheridge number and tight black shorts.

Elena Bechev and Denis Petrov, who often competed in pairs against Grinkov and Gordeeva, performed a routine, about two lovers who could not be together, set to Khachaturyan's *Spartacus*.

Some performers said their goodbyes one more time. During Paul Wylie's performance to the soundtrack of *Apollo 13*, he blew a kiss to the heavens. Dressed in a black, flowing skirt, Oksana Baiul ended her performance of Schubert's *Ave Maria* on her knees and placed her hands in a praying position. "He will be in my heart forever, like my guardian angel," she said.

Among those watching was the couple's three-year-old daughter, Daria, who applauded every skater in turn and, at the end of the evening, joined her mother on the ice with the skaters crowded around them.

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